

ADARSH

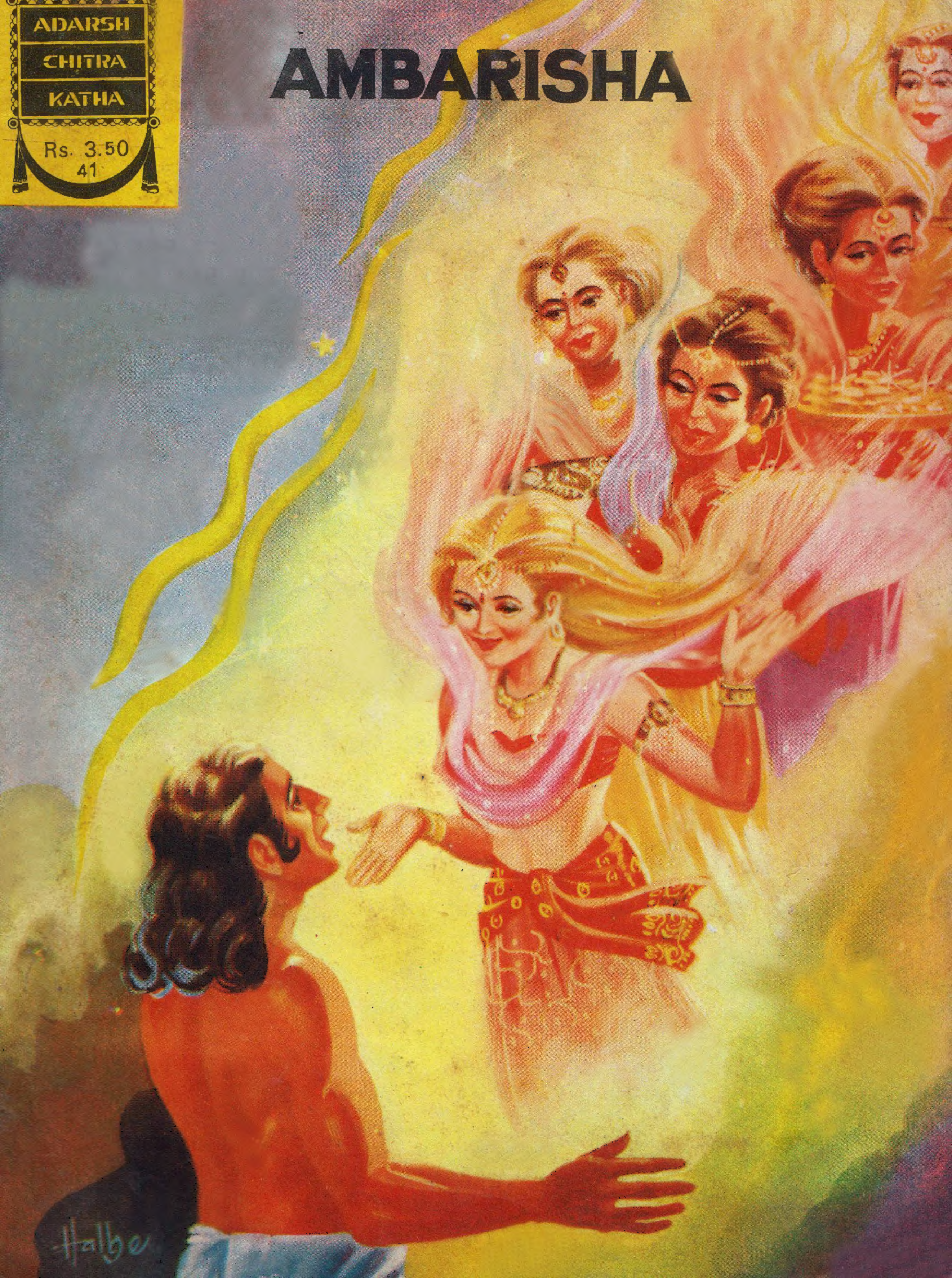
CHITRA

KATHA

Rs. 3.50

41

AMBARISHA



Halbe

AMBARISHA

In these pages we bring to you, two famous stories from the Bhagavata Purana. Ambarisha and Rantideva were outstanding kings who served their people with zeal and devotion. While the story of Ambarisha is touched with a mild sense of humour, that of Rantideva illustrates the highest degree of sacrifice.

Editor : **D. Kumar**

Script : **Bharati Sukhatankar**

Artwork : **V.B. Halbe**

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Our Next Title

THE MONKEY PRINCE

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AMBARISHA

EARTHLY
ENJOYMENTS ARE
NEVER LASTING.
EVERYTHING CHANGES
IN THIS WORLD.



AMBARISHA WAS A KING, KIND AND NOBLE. ALTHOUGH HE RULED THE WHOLE EARTH AND HAD TREMENDOUS WEALTH, HE DID NOT CARE FOR THEM.

IF EVER THE LORD HAD A DEVOTEE, IT WAS HIM. AT ALL TIMES HIS MIND WAS FIXED ON THE LOTUS FEET OF VISHNU.

LORD, I PRAY FOR
CONSTANT DEVOTION
TO YOUR FEET!



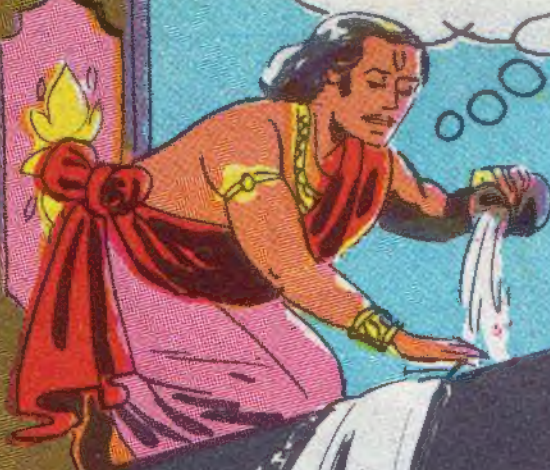
HE SPOKE OF NOTHING BUT THE
GLORIES OF NARAYANA.

GLORIOUS
ARE THE WAYS
OF THE LORD
NARAYANA!



WITH HIS HANDS
HE CLEANED
SRI NARAYANA'S
TEMPLE.

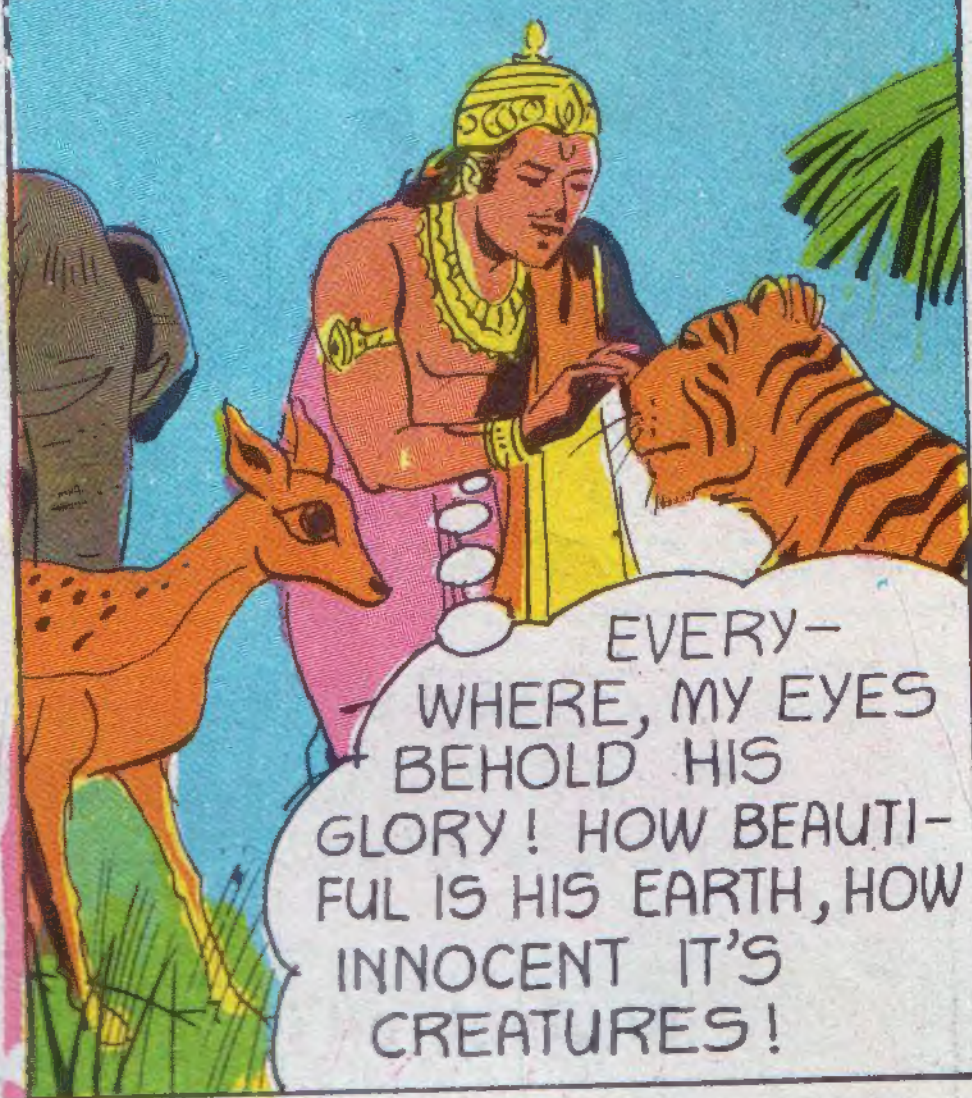
THE LORD'S TEMPLE
MUST ALWAYS BE
CLEAN AND
PLEASING.



HIS EARS HEARD ONLY THE PRAISES
OF SRI HARI.



EVERY-
WHERE, MY EYES
BEHOLD HIS
GLORY! HOW BEAUTI-
FUL IS HIS EARTH, HOW
INNOCENT IT'S
CREATURES!



HE ATE ONLY THE
FOOD THAT HAD
BEEN OFFERED
TO THE
LORD.



HE VISITED THE PLACES DEAR TO HARI
AND HIS HEAD WAS EVER BOWED
AT HIS LOTUS FEET.



ALL HIS ACTIONS WERE PERFORMED
AS A SERVICE TO NARAYANA.

MY NARAYANA IS
TIRED. LET ME
WASH HIS FEET
AND MAKE HIM
COMFORTABLE.

SEEING THE UTTER DEDICATION
OF AMBARISHA—

AMBARISHA,
YOUR DEVOTION
PLEASES ME
IMMENSELY.
HERE IS MY
CHAKRA.

I GIVE IT TO YOU
FOR YOUR
PROTECTION.

ONCE, KING AMBARISHA AND HIS QUEEN UNDER-
TOOK A SPECIAL FAST CALLED THE
DVADASHI VRATA.

VENERABLE
BRAHMINS, WE
WISH TO
UNDERTAKE
THE FAST.

O KING,
YOU WILL HAVE TO
PRACTISE SPECIAL
DISCIPLINES FOR A YEAR.

WHEN THE TIME WAS ALMOST UP,
HE FASTED FOR THREE DAYS.

O KING, TOMORROW IS THE
TWELFTH DAY OF THE MOON.
IT IS THE MOST AUSPICIOUS
DAY FOR YOU TO BREAK
YOUR FAST.

ON THIS OCCASION, AMBARISHA
BATHED IN THE YAMUNA
AND OFFERED PRAYERS TO THE
LORD AT MATHURA.

HE GIFTED AWAY HIS CATTLE AND HIS WEALTH TO THE POOR
AND THE NEEDY.

HERE, GOOD SIR.
HERE ARE TEN COWS
FOR YOU. AND SOME
CLOTHES AND MONEY.

MAY THE LORD GIVE
YOU LONG LIFE,
O KING!

O REVERED
BRAHMIN. BE PLEASED
TO ACCEPT THESE
GIFTS FROM YOUR
SERVANT.

GOD BLESS YOU
KING AMBARISHA!

THEN HE FED
ALL THOSE
WHO HAD
GATHERED
THERE.



RESPECTED SIR,
DO I HAVE YOUR
PERMISSION TO
BREAK MY FAST
NOW?



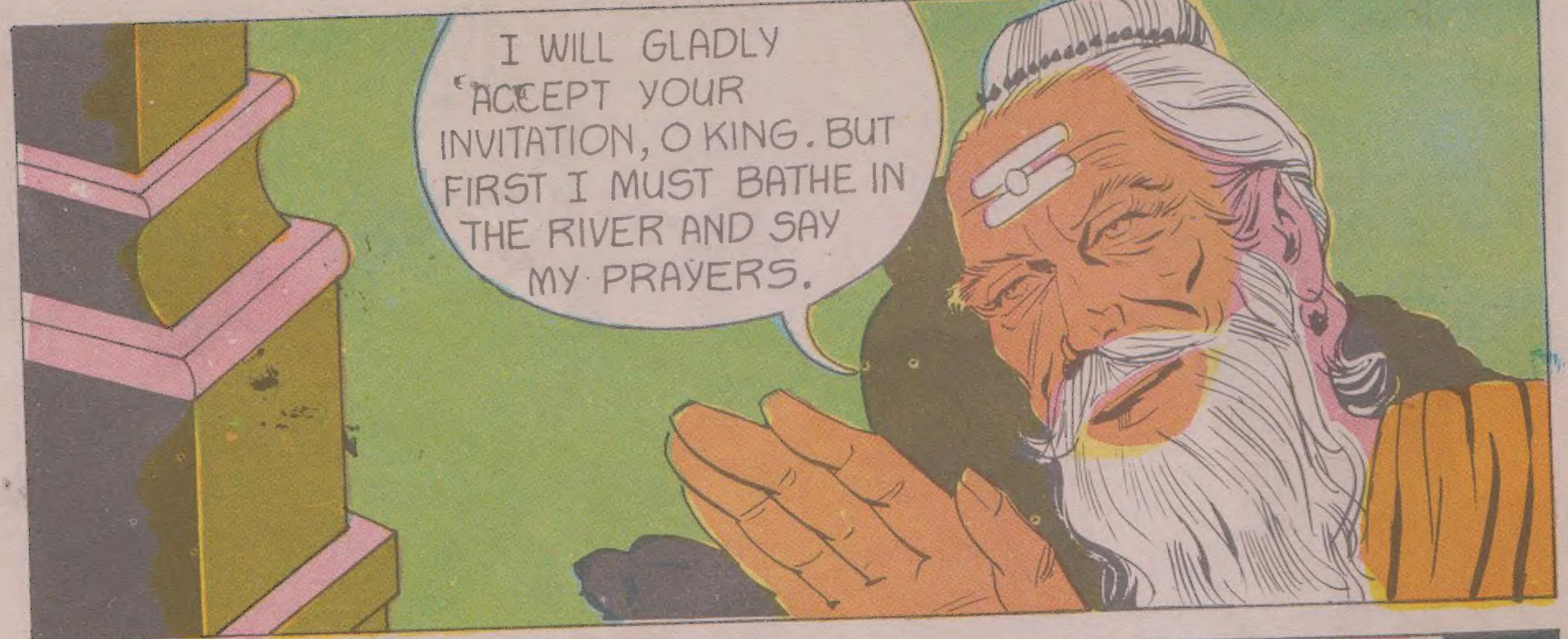
RIGHT AT THAT MOMENT, THE RISHI
DURVASA ARRIVED THERE.

WELCOME, O
GREAT RISHI.
I AM HONOURED
BY YOUR VISIT.



DO BE MY
GUEST AND
JOIN ME FOR
A MEAL.



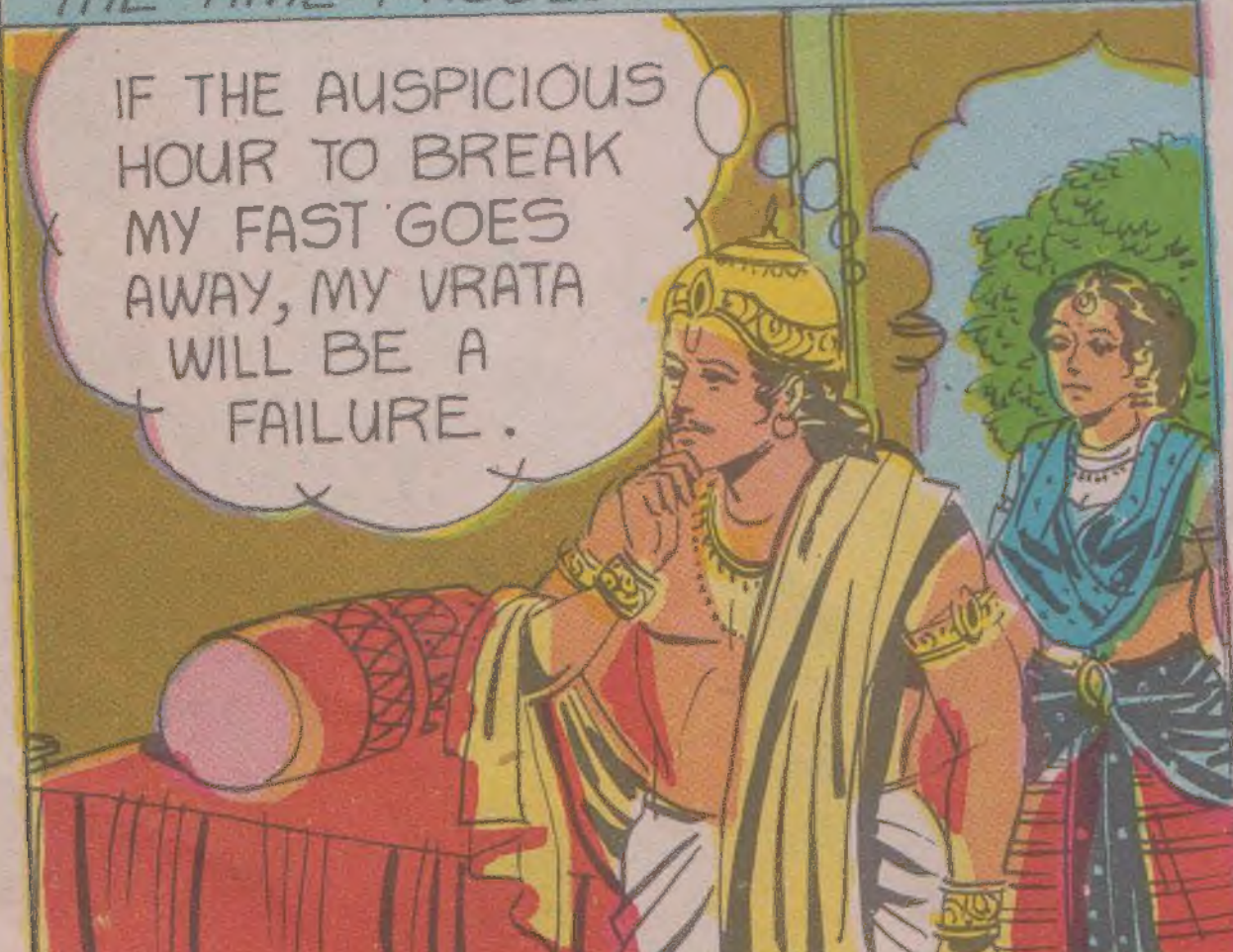


I WILL GLADLY
ACCEPT YOUR
INVITATION, O KING. BUT
FIRST I MUST BATHE IN
THE RIVER AND SAY
MY PRAYERS.

AFTER HE HAD
BATHED,
DURVASA SAT
DOWN FOR
MEDITATION AND
SOON BECAME
ABSORBED
IN IT.



AMBARISHA BECAME ANXIOUS AS
THE TIME PASSED.



IF THE AUSPICIOUS
HOUR TO BREAK
MY FAST GOES
AWAY, MY VRATA
WILL BE A
FAILURE.

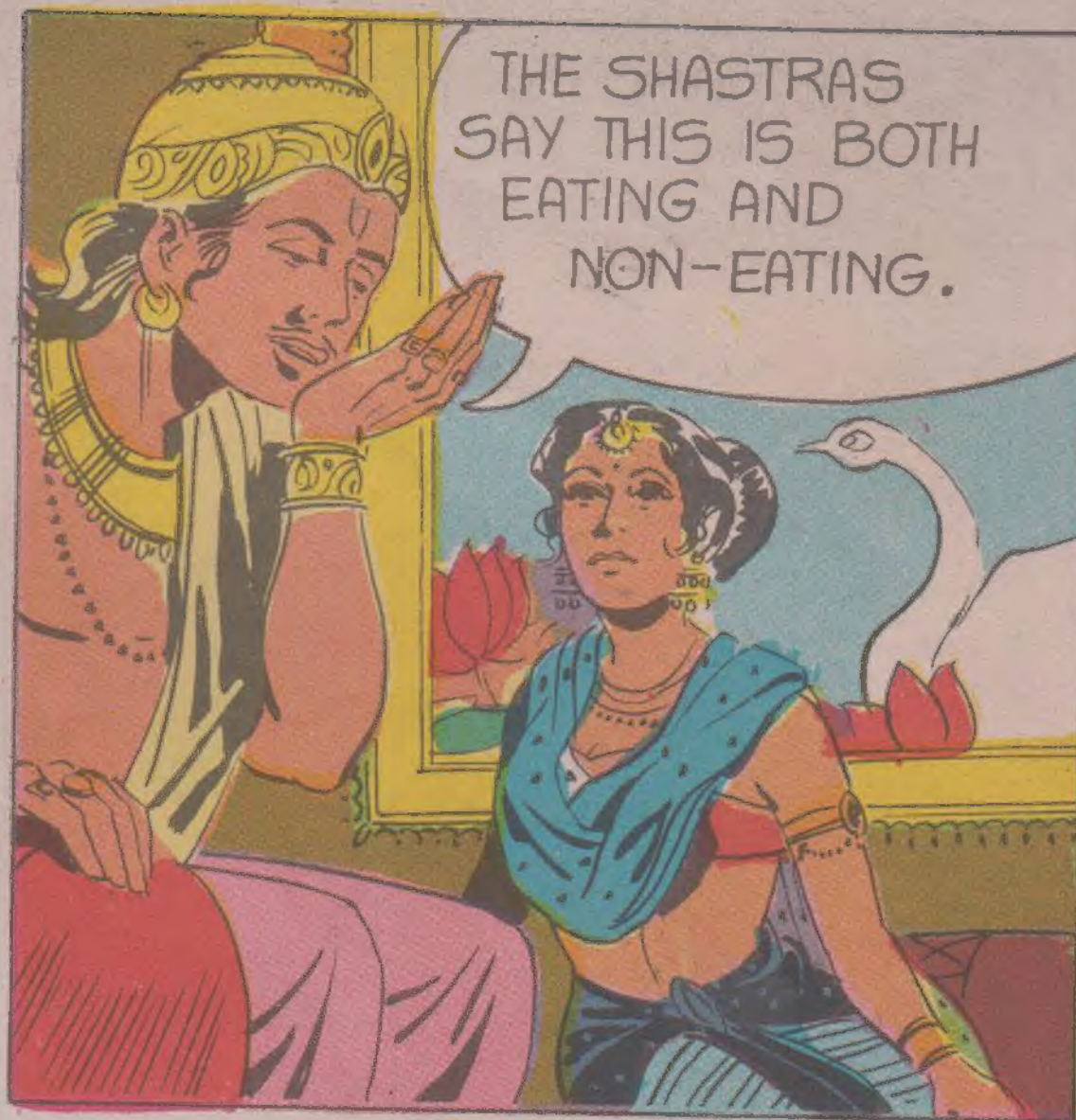


BUT IF I EAT,
IT WILL BE AN
INSULT TO AN
INVITED GUEST.
AND DURVASA
IS A WRATHFUL
RISHI! WHAT
SHOULD I
DO?

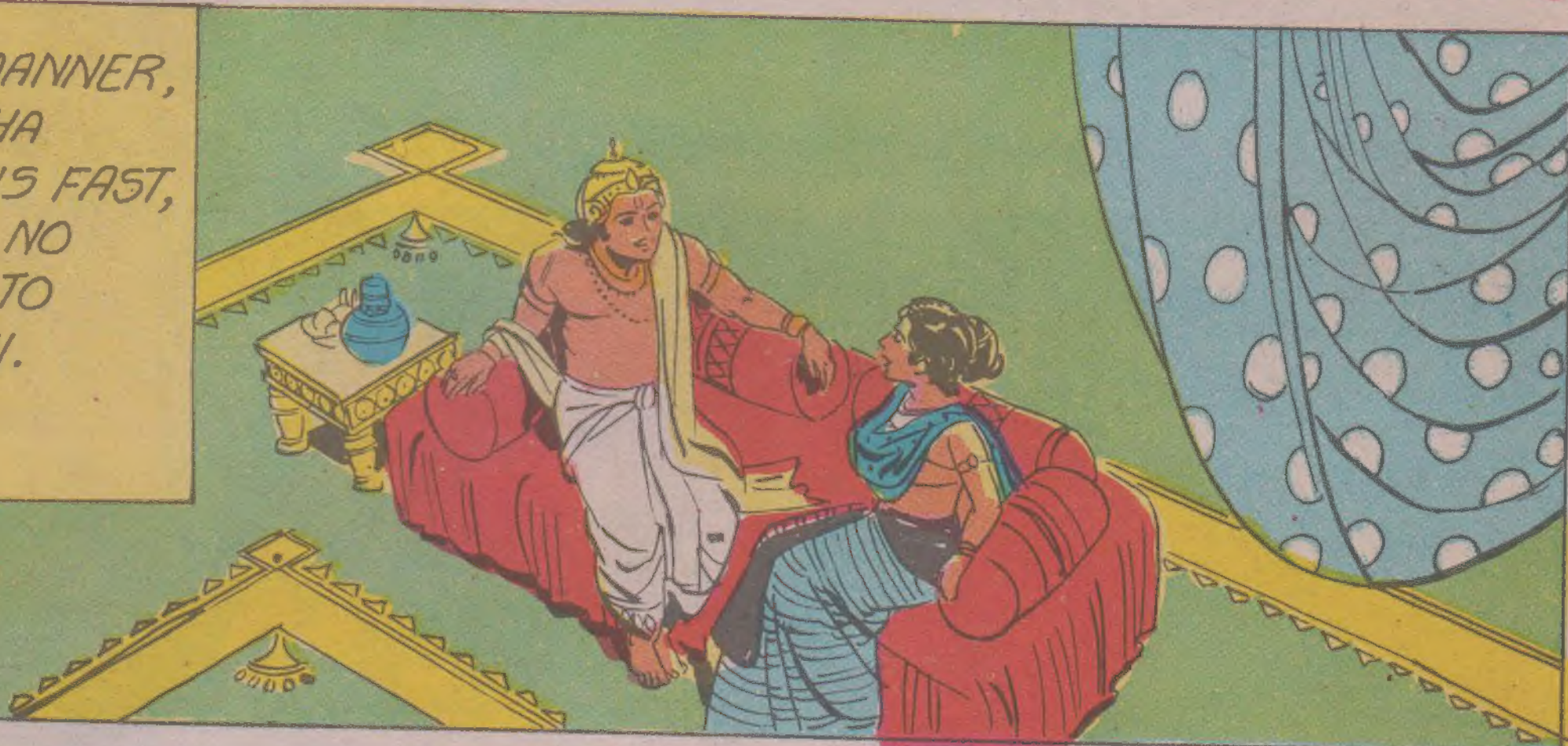
I WILL COMPROMISE
BY SIPPING A
LITTLE WATER.



THE SHASTRAS
SAY THIS IS BOTH
EATING AND
NON-EATING.

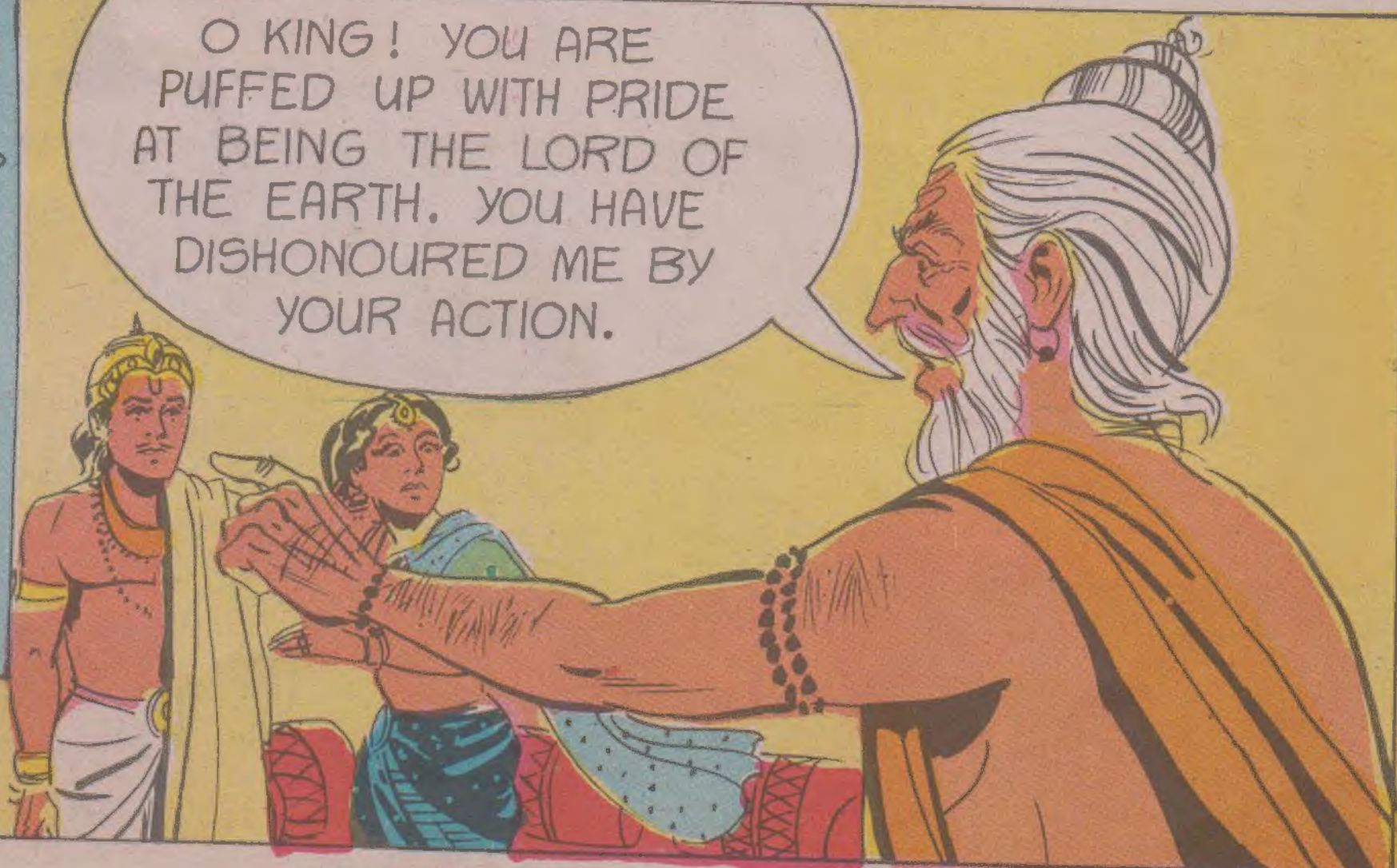


IN THIS MANNER,
AMBARISHA
BROKE HIS FAST,
MEANING NO
OFFENCE TO
THE RISHI.



DURVASA
RETURNED AFTER
A WHILE AND
LEARNT THAT
THE KING HAD
BROKEN HIS
FAST. THIS
MADE HIM
ANGRY.

O KING! YOU ARE
PUFFED UP WITH PRIDE
AT BEING THE LORD OF
THE EARTH. YOU HAVE
DISHONOURED ME BY
YOUR ACTION.



HE TORE A TUFT
OF HIS HAIR IN RAGE...



... WHICH TURNED INTO A HIDEOUS DEMON.

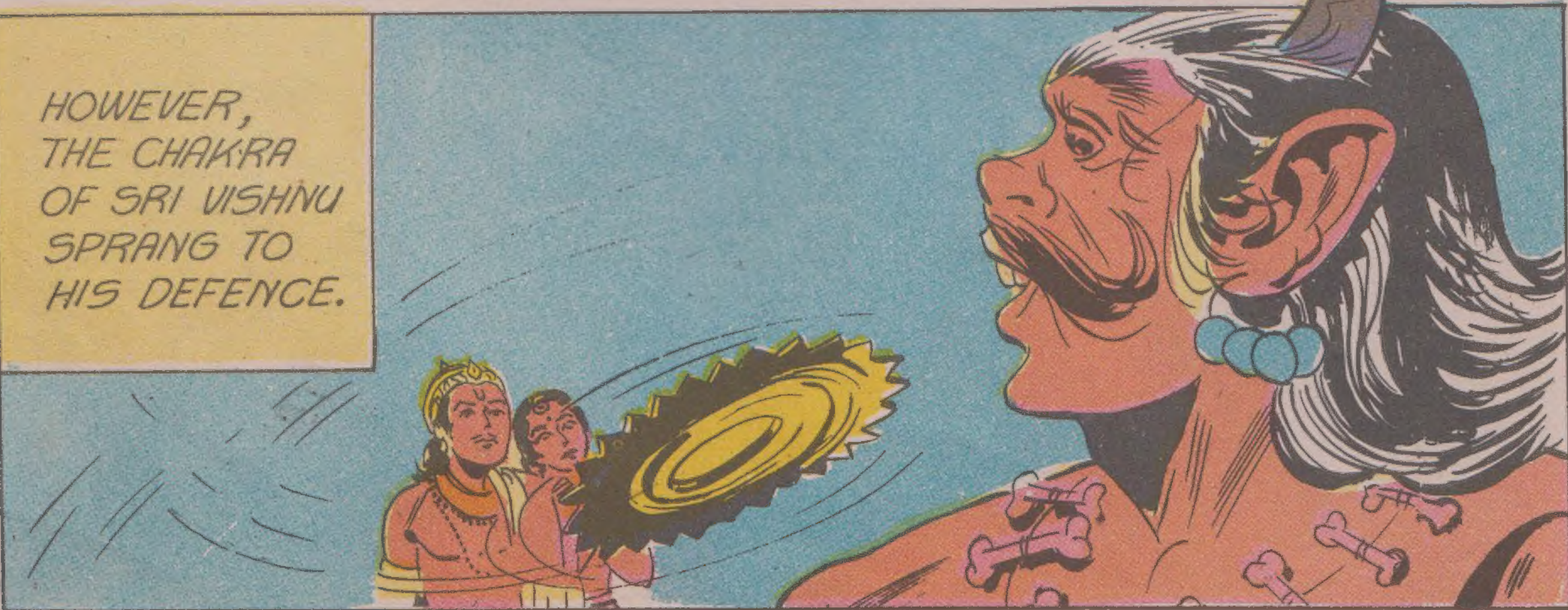


DESTROY
THIS PROUD
AND IGNOBLE
KING !



BUT AMBARISHA
REMAINED
CALM AND WAS
NOT AT ALL
AFRAID.

HOWEVER,
THE CHAKRA
OF SRI VISHNU
SPRANG TO
HIS DEFENCE.



THE DEMON
COWERED IN
A CORNER
AND LOST
ALL HIS POWER
BEFORE THE
ADVANCING
CHAKRA.



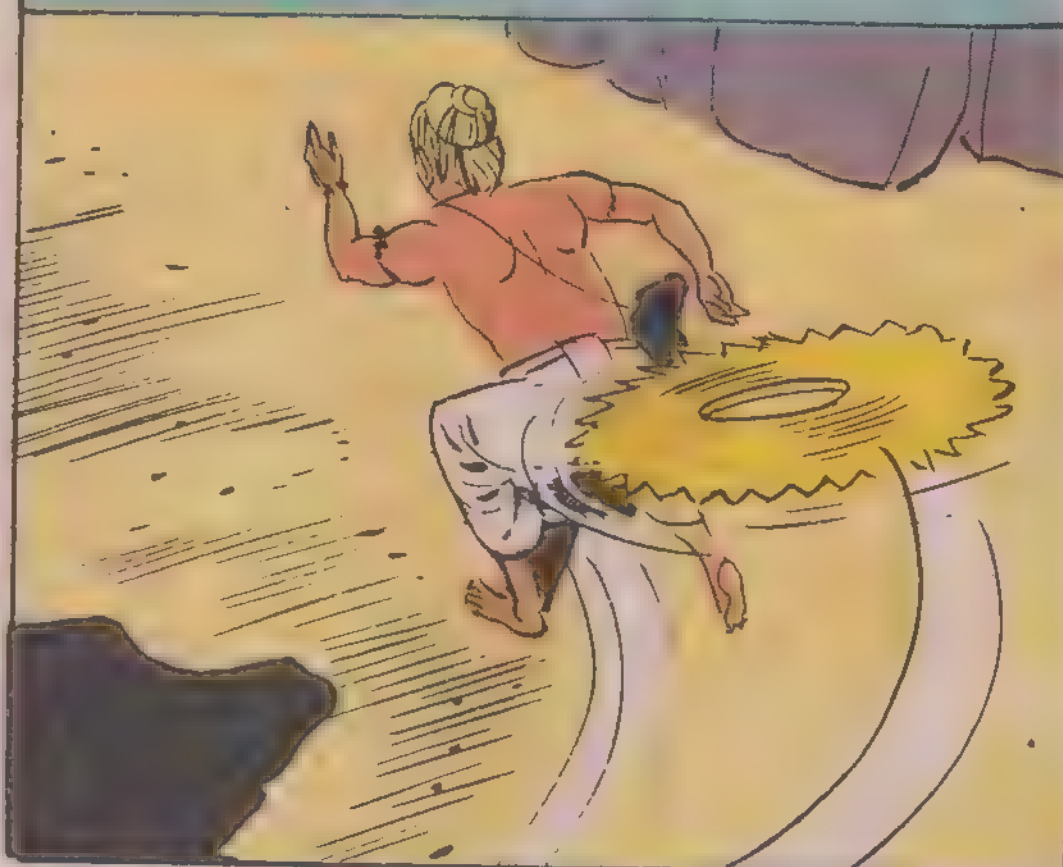
THEN THE WEAPON
MOVED
MENACINGLY
TOWARDS
DURVASA, WHO
HAD PRONOUNCED
THE CURSE.



IN SHEER PANIC, DURVASA
STARTED RUNNING.



HE RAN IN ALL DIRECTIONS,
BUT COULD NOT ESCAPE
FROM THE WEAPON!



HE RAN
NORTHWARD
THE SUDARSHANA
CHAKRA WAS
STEADILY
BEHIND HIM.



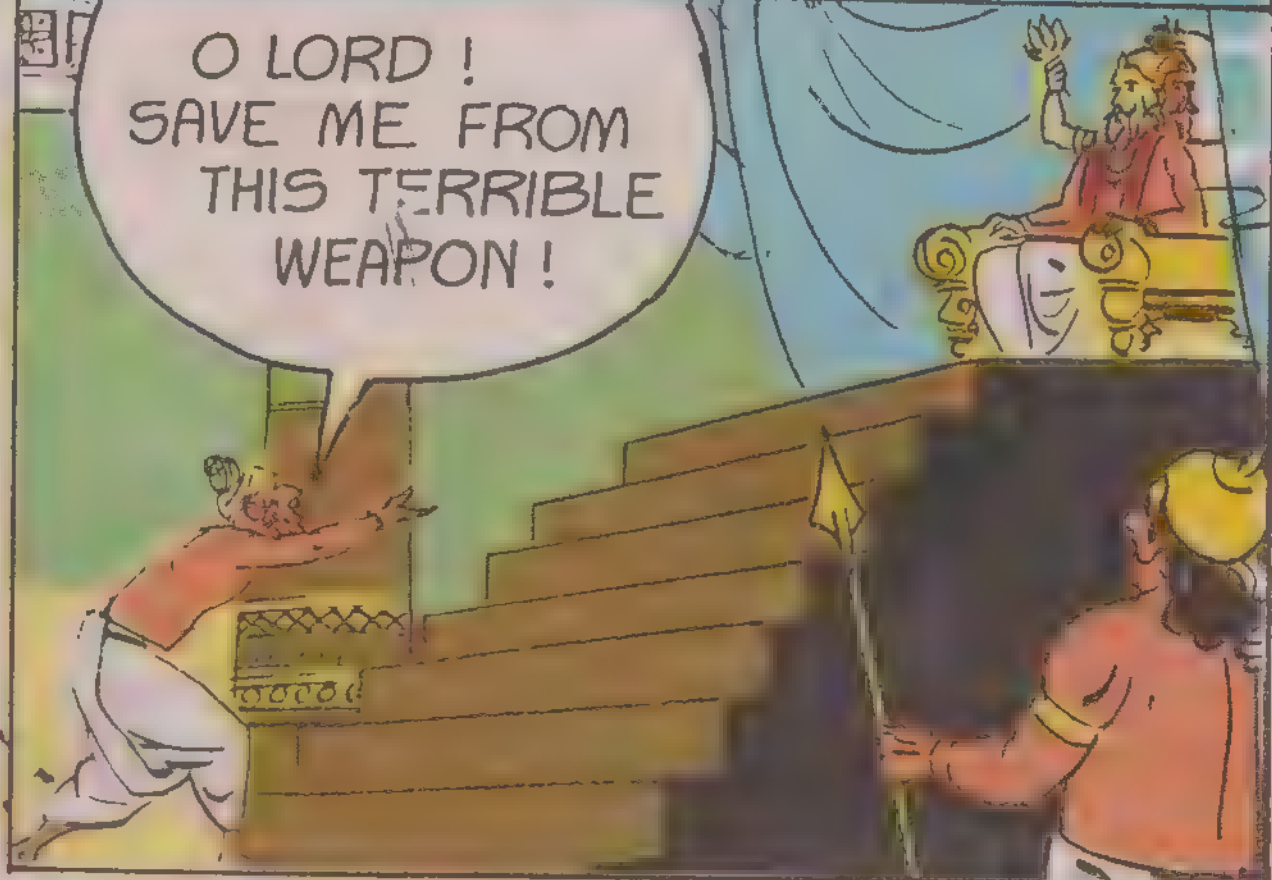
HE TURNED TO THE SOUTH,
AND THE CHAKRA, TOO,
TURNED SOUTH!

GOOD LORD! WHAT
AM I TO DO?



PANTING BREATHLESSLY,
HE RAN TO BRAHMA—

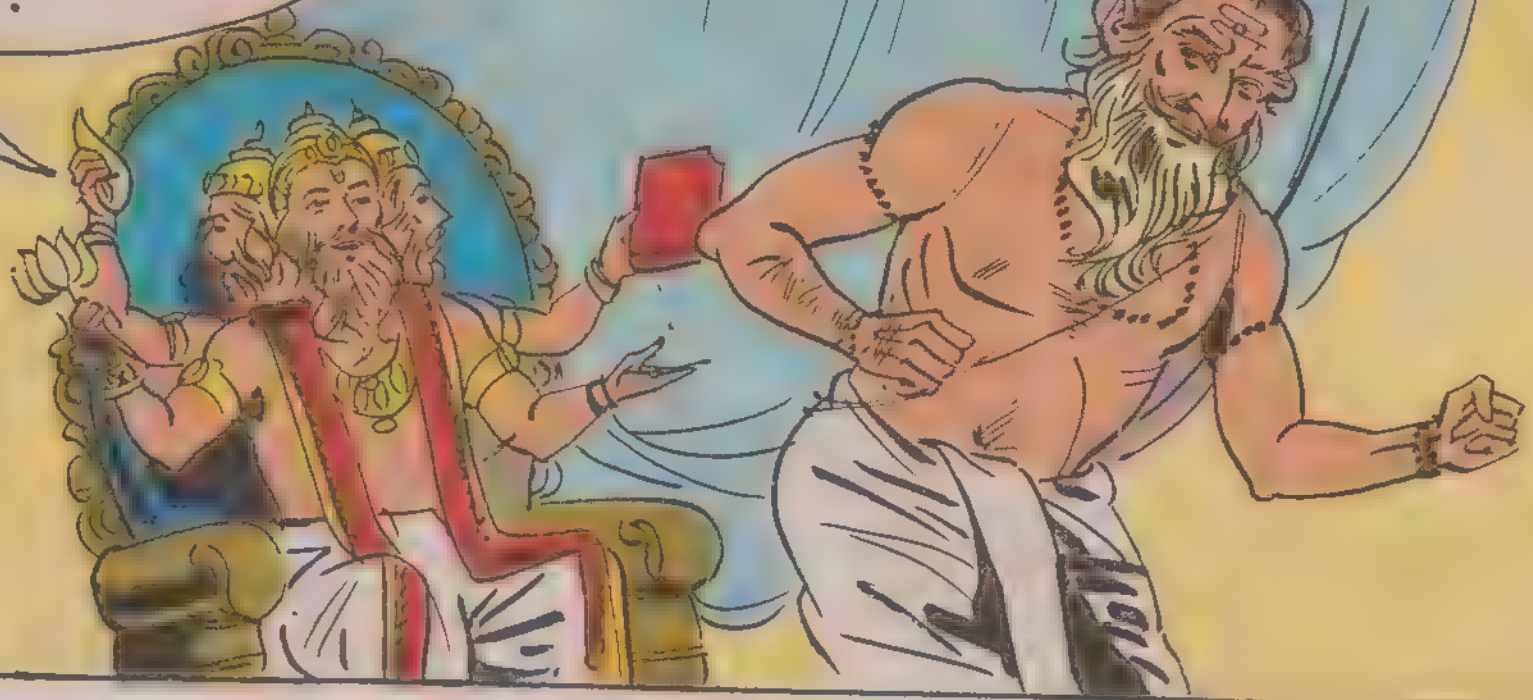
O LORD!
SAVE ME FROM
THIS TERRIBLE
WEAPON!



SON, YOU
HAVE OFFENDED
A DEVOTEE OF
SRI NARAYANA.



HONESTLY SPEAKING,
IT IS BEYOND MY
POWERS TO HELP
YOU !



DURVASA THEN
WENT TO SHIVA—



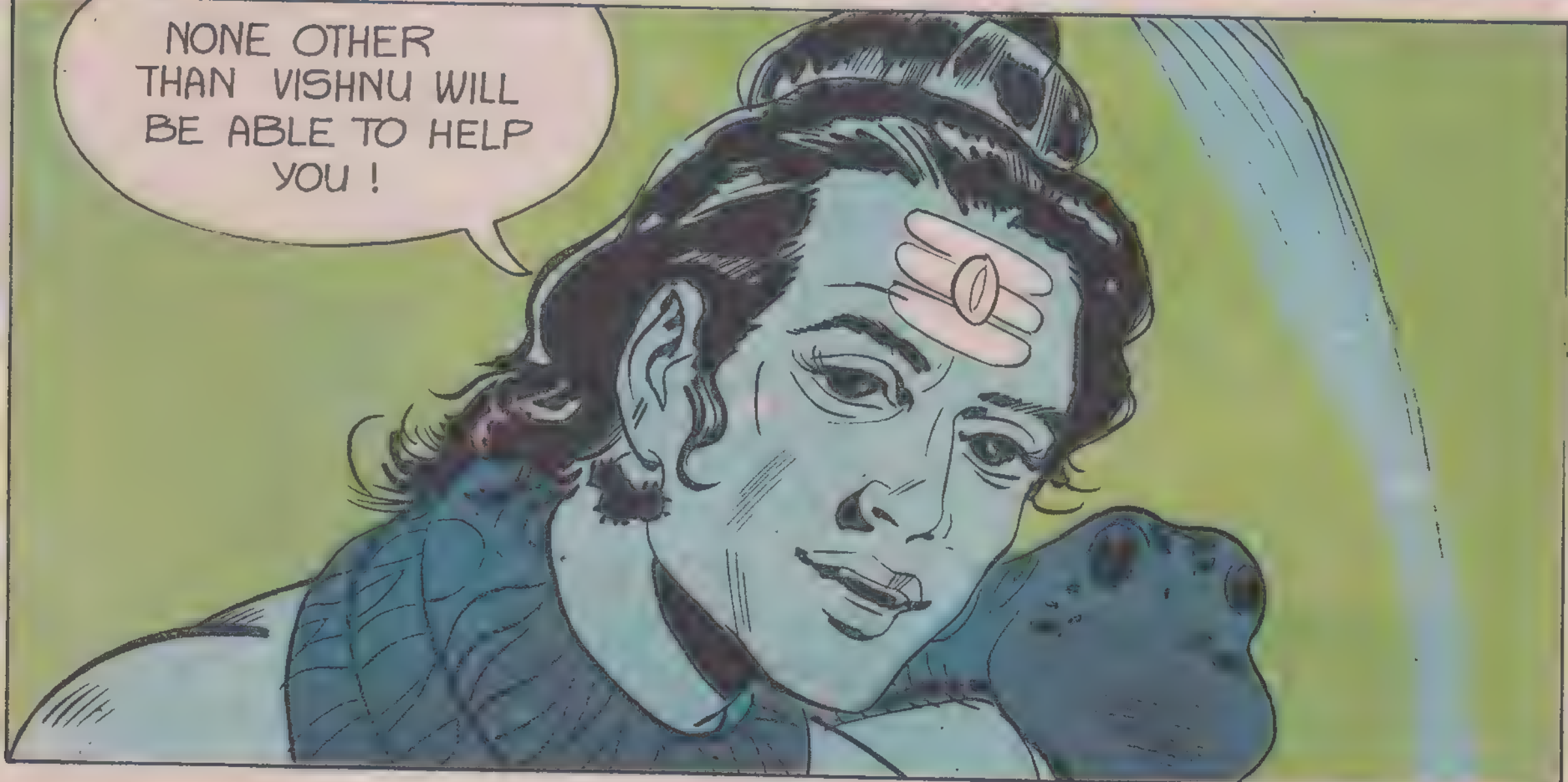
LORD
SHIVA !
SAVE ME, I
IMPLORE
YOU !

SHIVA LOOKED AT HIM
COMPASSIONATELY—

I, TOO, AM HELPLESS,
O RISHI. I HAVE NO
CONTROL OVER THIS
WEAPON.



NONE OTHER
THAN VISHNU WILL
BE ABLE TO HELP
YOU !



DURVASA RAN. THE CHAKRA
WAS GETTING CLOSER...



... AND CLOSER TO HIM.



O HEAVENS,
I AM GETTING
TIRED OF
RUNNING !

IN A FINAL
BID TO
ESCAPE, HE
RAN TO SRI
NARAYANA-

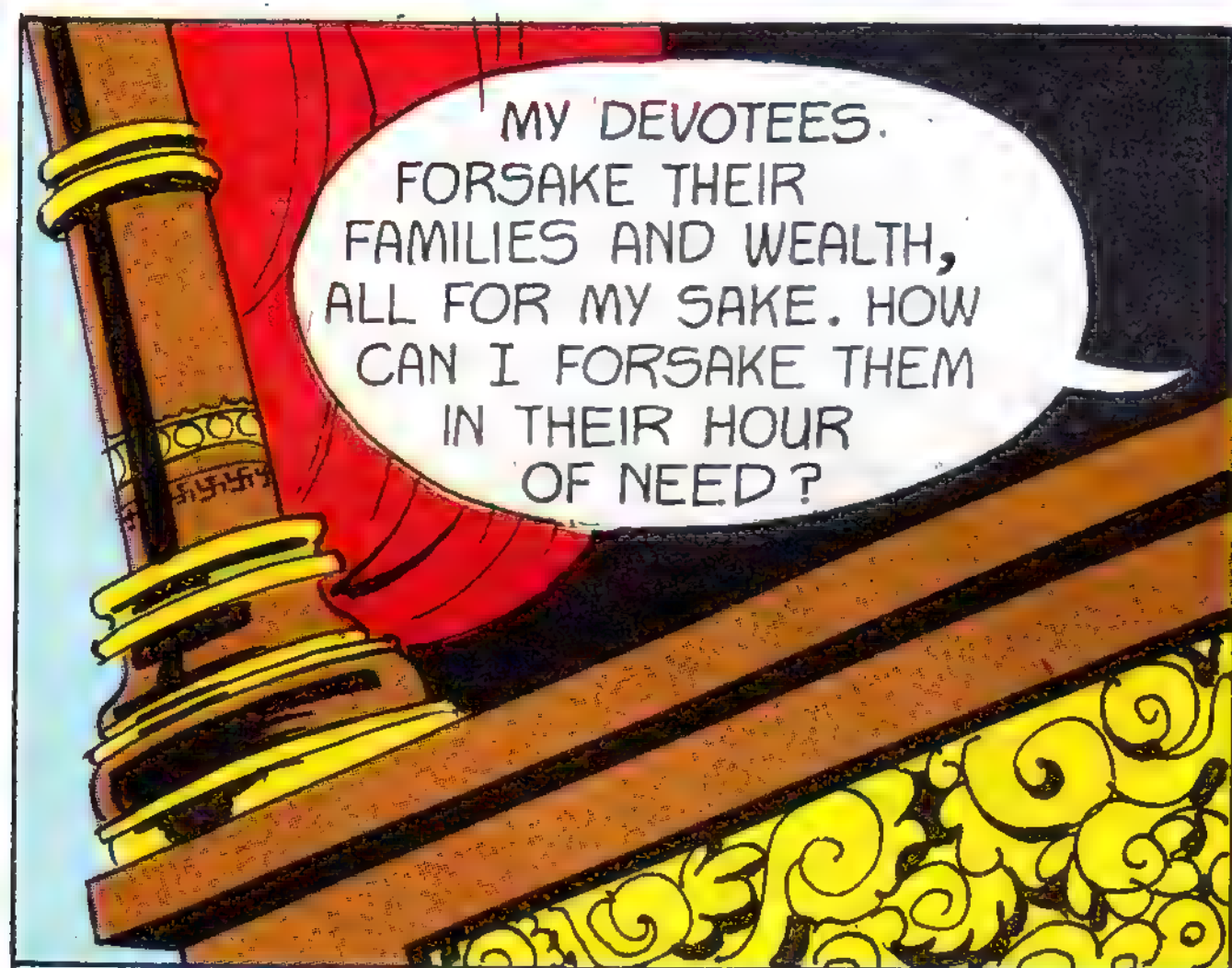
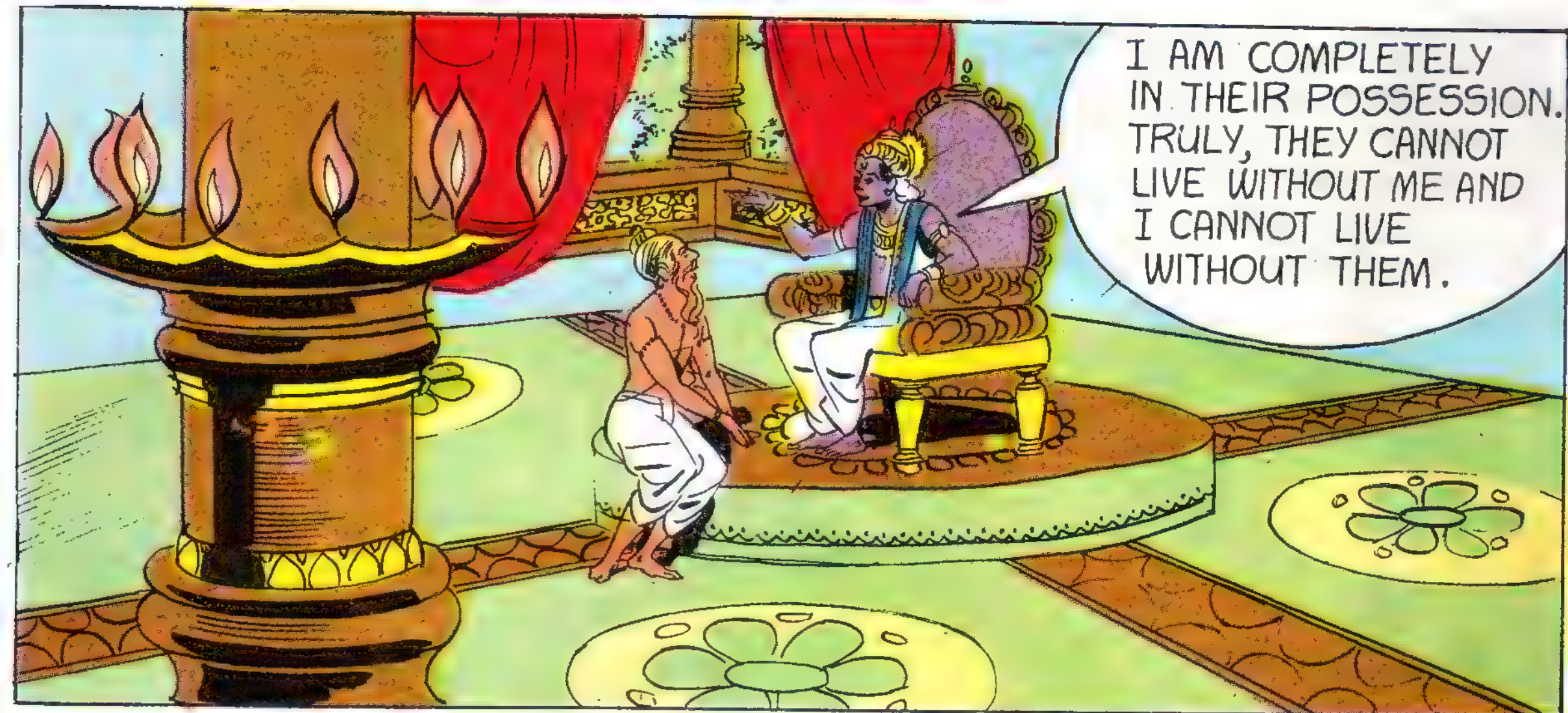


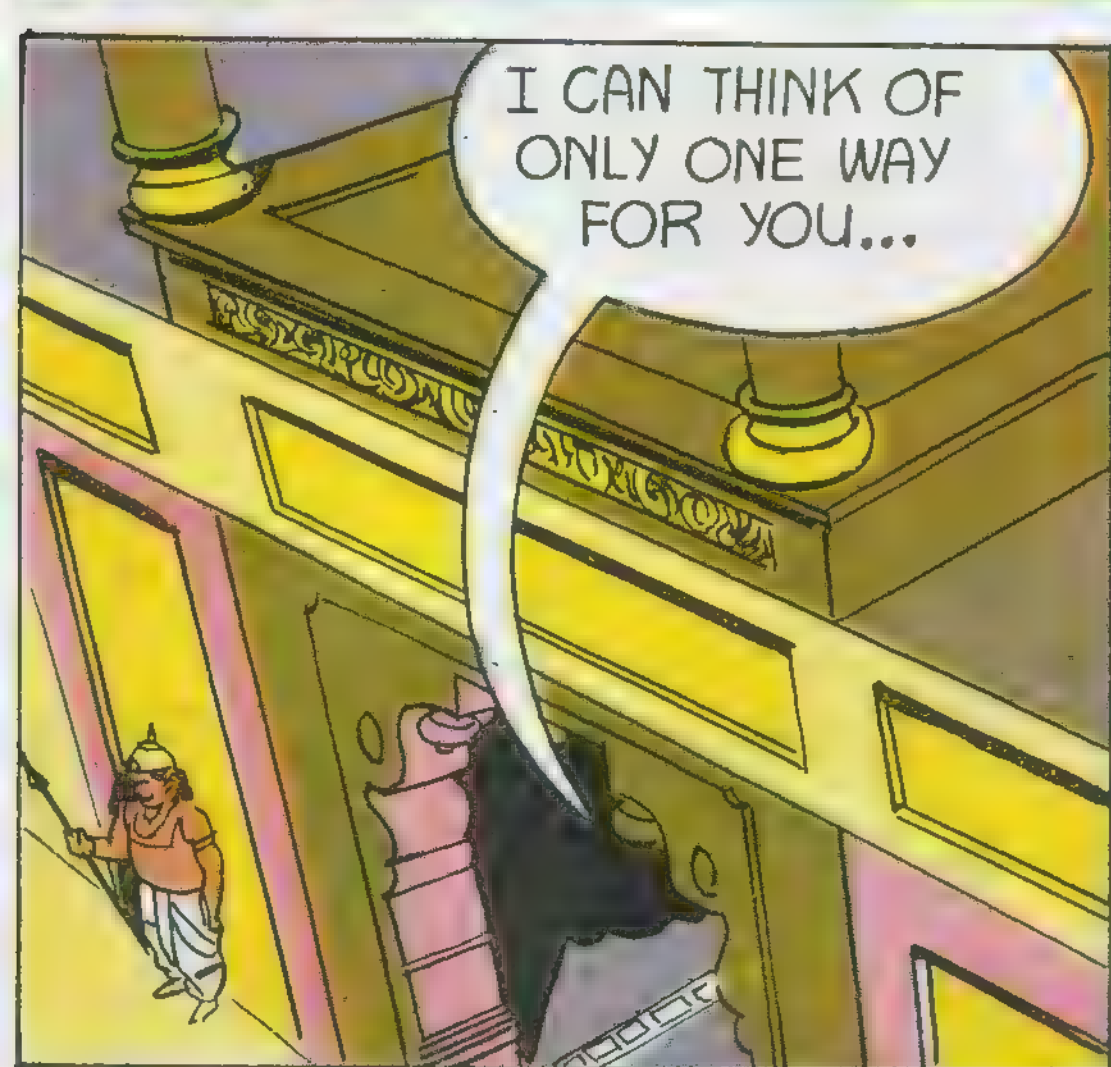
LORD! YOU ARE
MY LAST RESORT.
DO SAVE ME !

VISHNU
SMILED
AT HIM
RUEFULLY-



O DURVASA,
I AM THE
SLAVE OF
MY DEVOTEES!





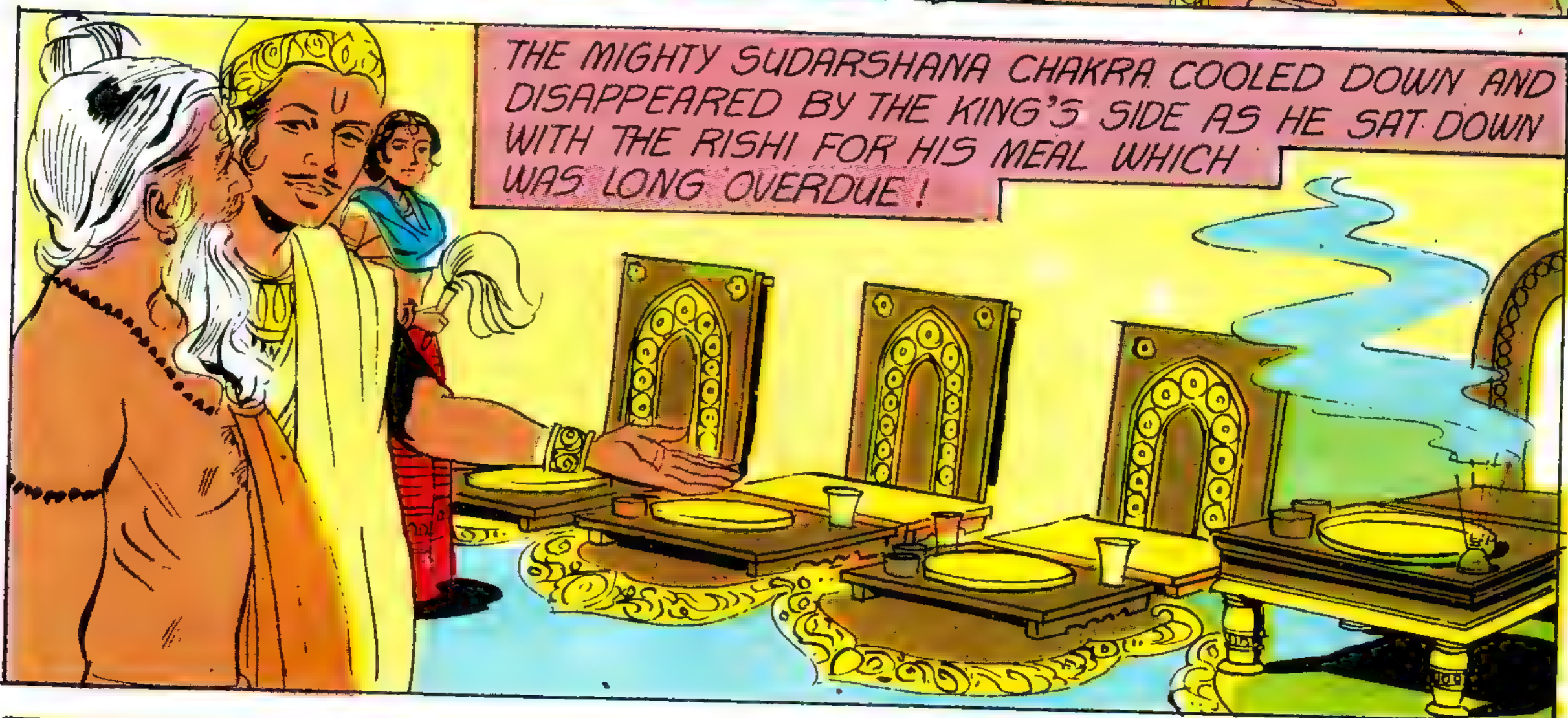
DURVASA HURRIED BACK TO AMBARISHA AND FELL AT HIS FEET.



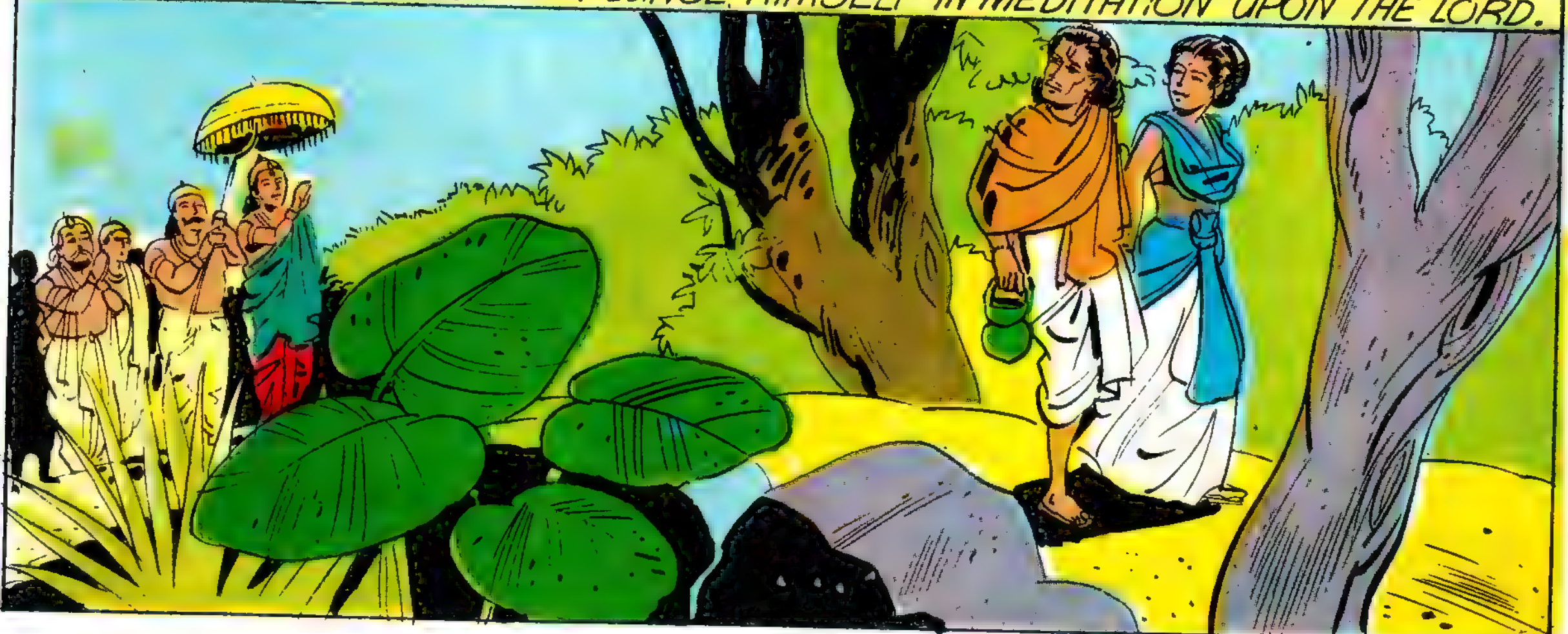
AMBARISHA WAS EMBARRASSED BY THE RISHI FALLING AT HIS FEET.



THE MIGHTY SUDARSHANA CHAKRA COOLED DOWN AND DISAPPEARED BY THE KING'S SIDE AS HE SAT DOWN WITH THE RISHI FOR HIS MEAL WHICH WAS LONG OVERDUE!



SOON AFTER, AMBARISHA MADE OVER HIS KINGDOM TO HIS ELDEST SON, AND RETIRED TO THE FOREST TO PLUNGE HIMSELF IN MEDITATION UPON THE LORD.



RANTIDEVA

AND THIS IS THE STORY OF KING RANTIDEVA. THOSE WERE THE DAYS OF GLORY WHEN MEN WERE HONEST AND TRUTHFUL AND KINGS WERE NOT ENGAGED IN PETTY FIGHTS BUT IN THE WELFARE OF THEIR PEOPLE.



RANTIDEVA WAS A KING WITH A LARGE AND GENEROUS HEART. HE GAVE FREELY TO ALL, FOR HE SAW LORD HARI IN ALL LIVING CREATURES.



HE WAS ALWAYS MAKING GIFTS TO THE POOR AND THE NEEDY.



THE LORD GIVES ME ALL MATERIAL COMFORTS IN PLENTY.



HOW THEN CAN I SIT BACK
AND ENJOY THEM, WHEN THERE
ARE SO MANY MOUTHS OF HARI
TO BE FED ?

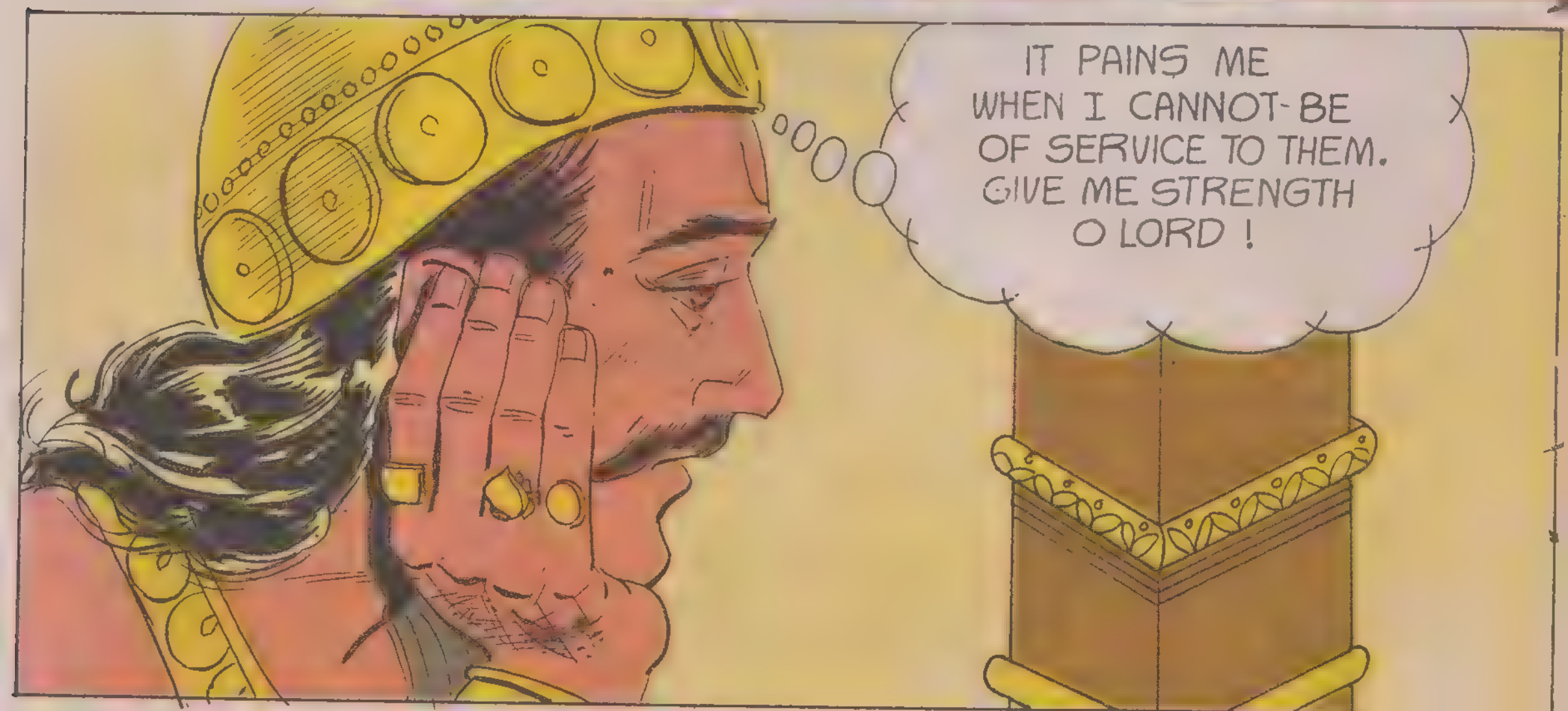
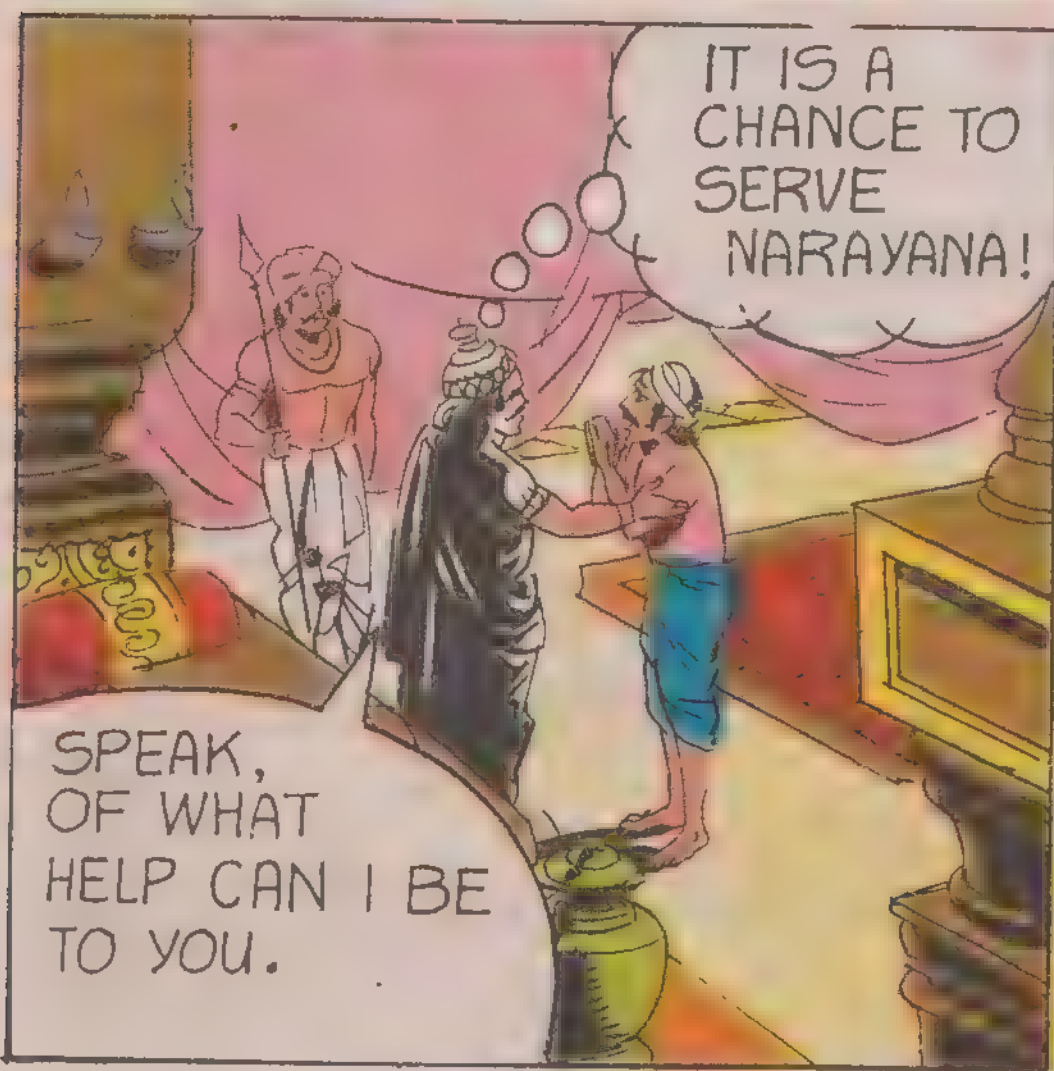
I WILL NEVER BE IN
WANT AS LONG AS I
AM AN INSTRUMENT IN
SCATTERING HIS
BLESSINGS.

AND SURE ENOUGH, HE WOULD ALWAYS HAVE PLENTY
OF FOOD AND CLOTHING TO DISTRIBUTE !

WHAT A
WONDERFUL KING
HE IS !

MAY GOD
BLESS
HIM !

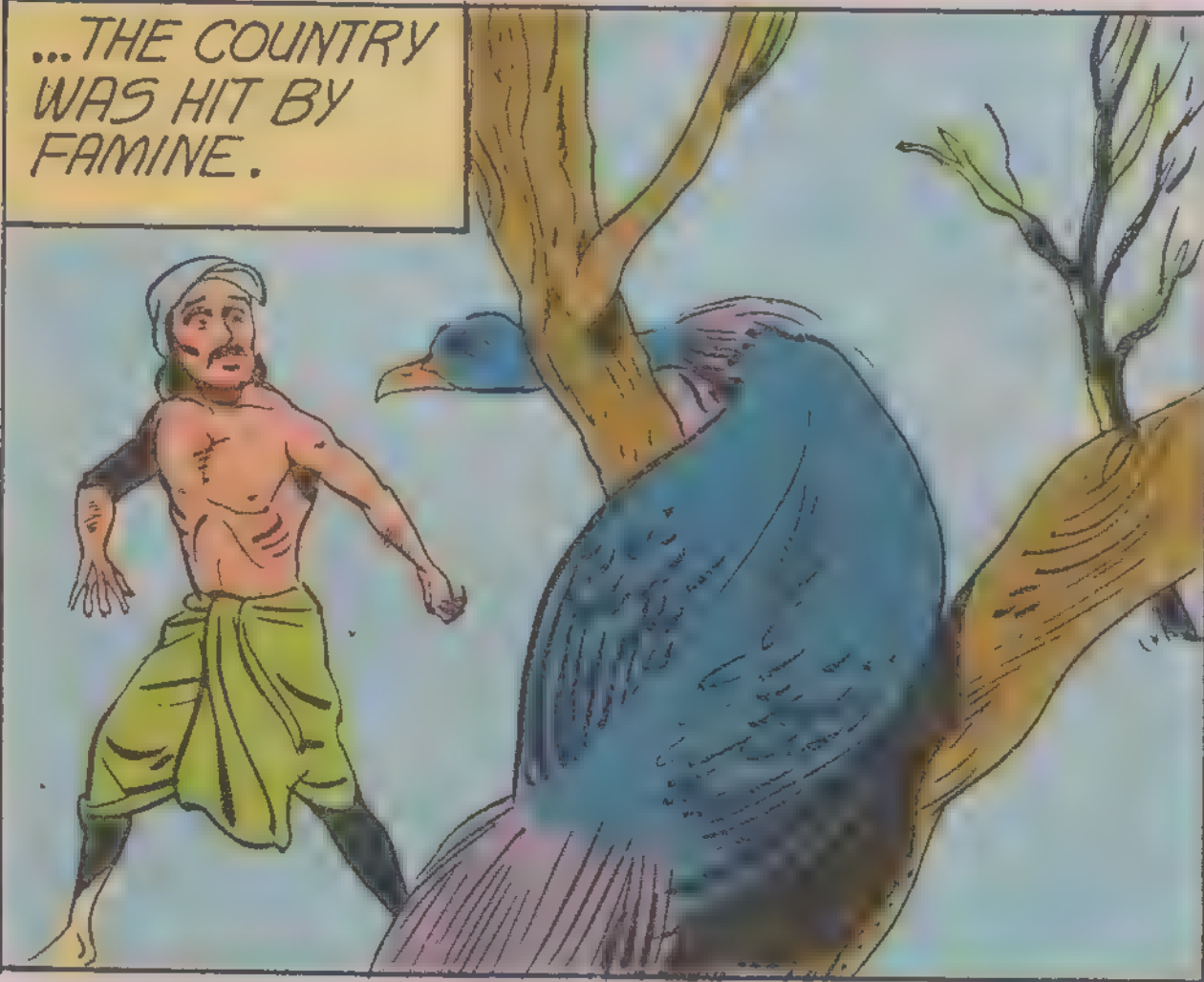
HE TREATS
RICH AND
POOR ALIKE !



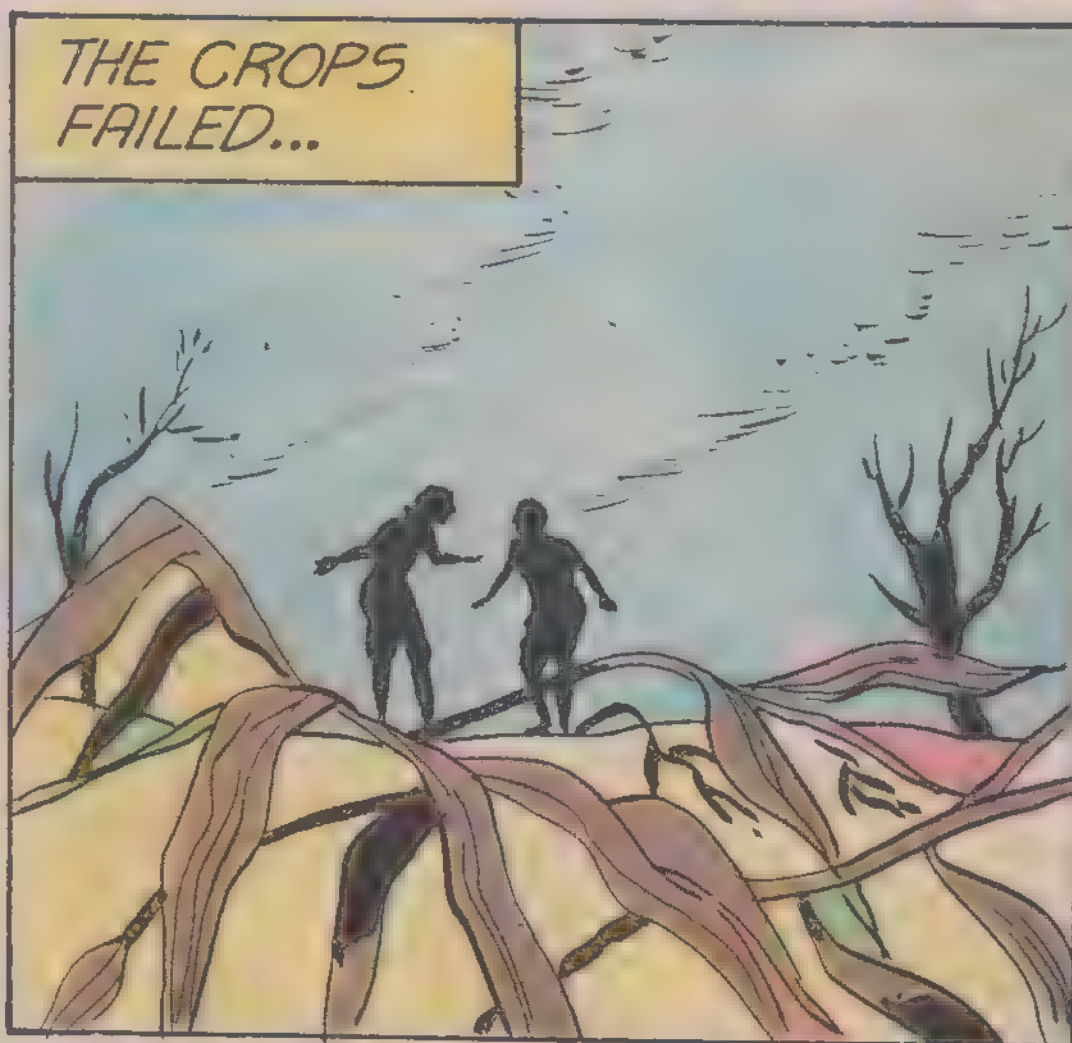
AFTER MANY YEARS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY...



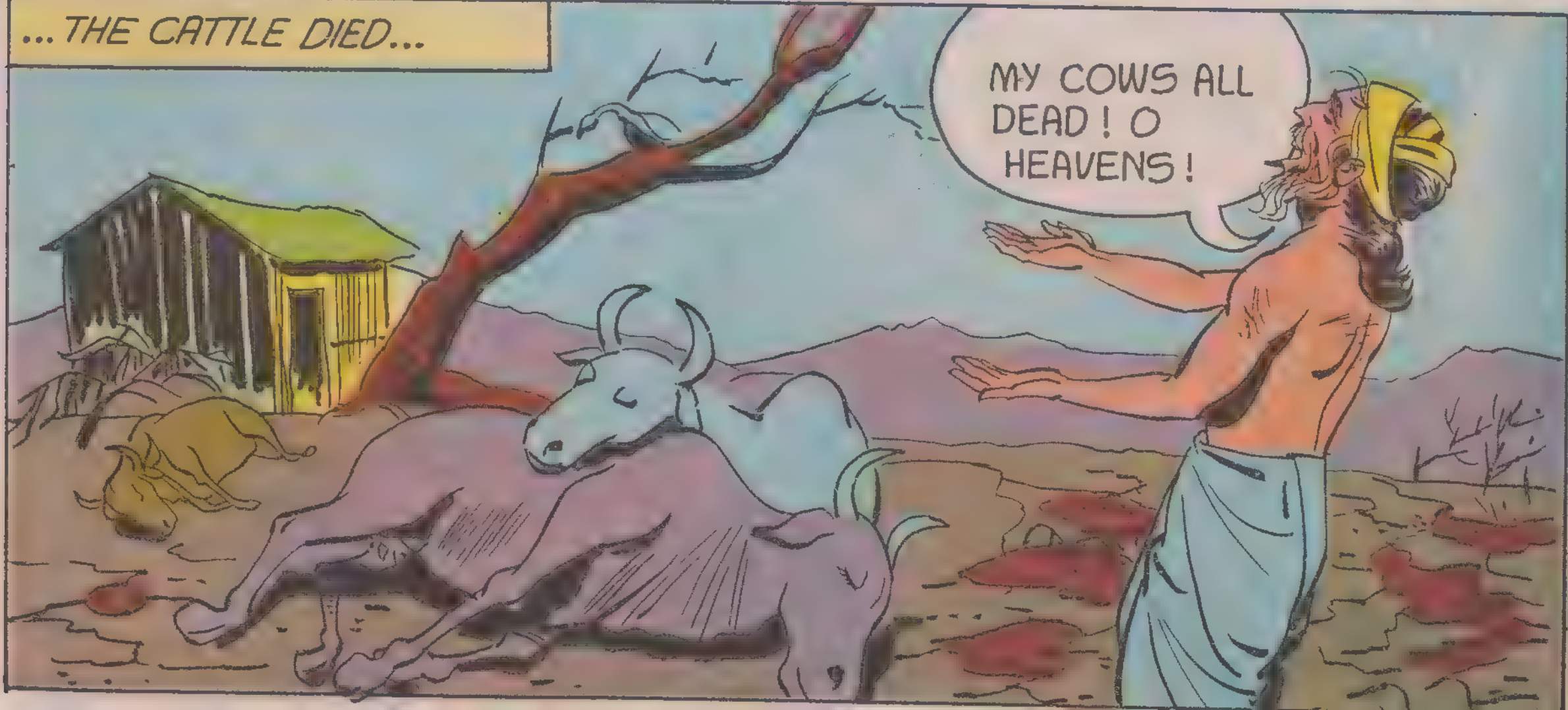
...THE COUNTRY WAS HIT BY FAMINE.



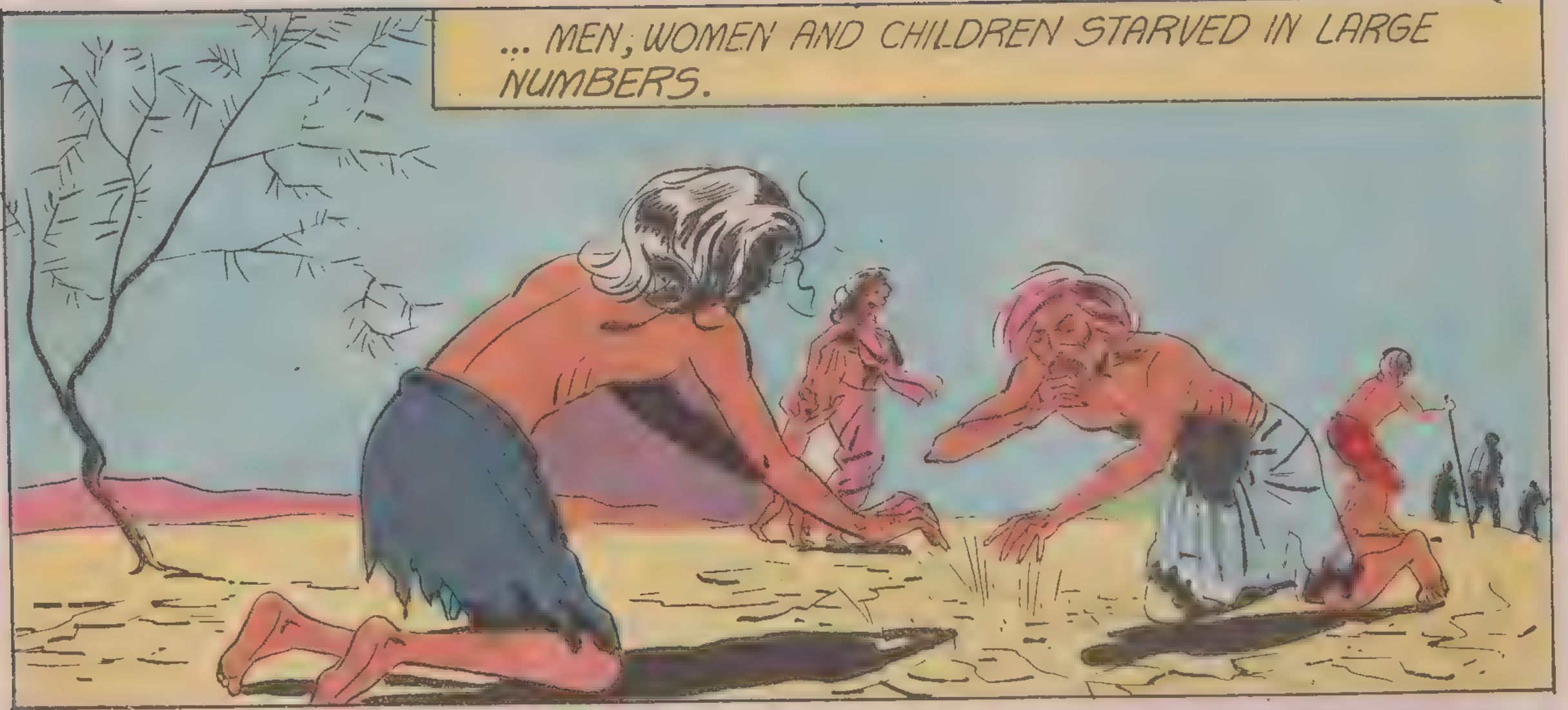
THE CROPS FAILED...



...THE CATTLE DIED...



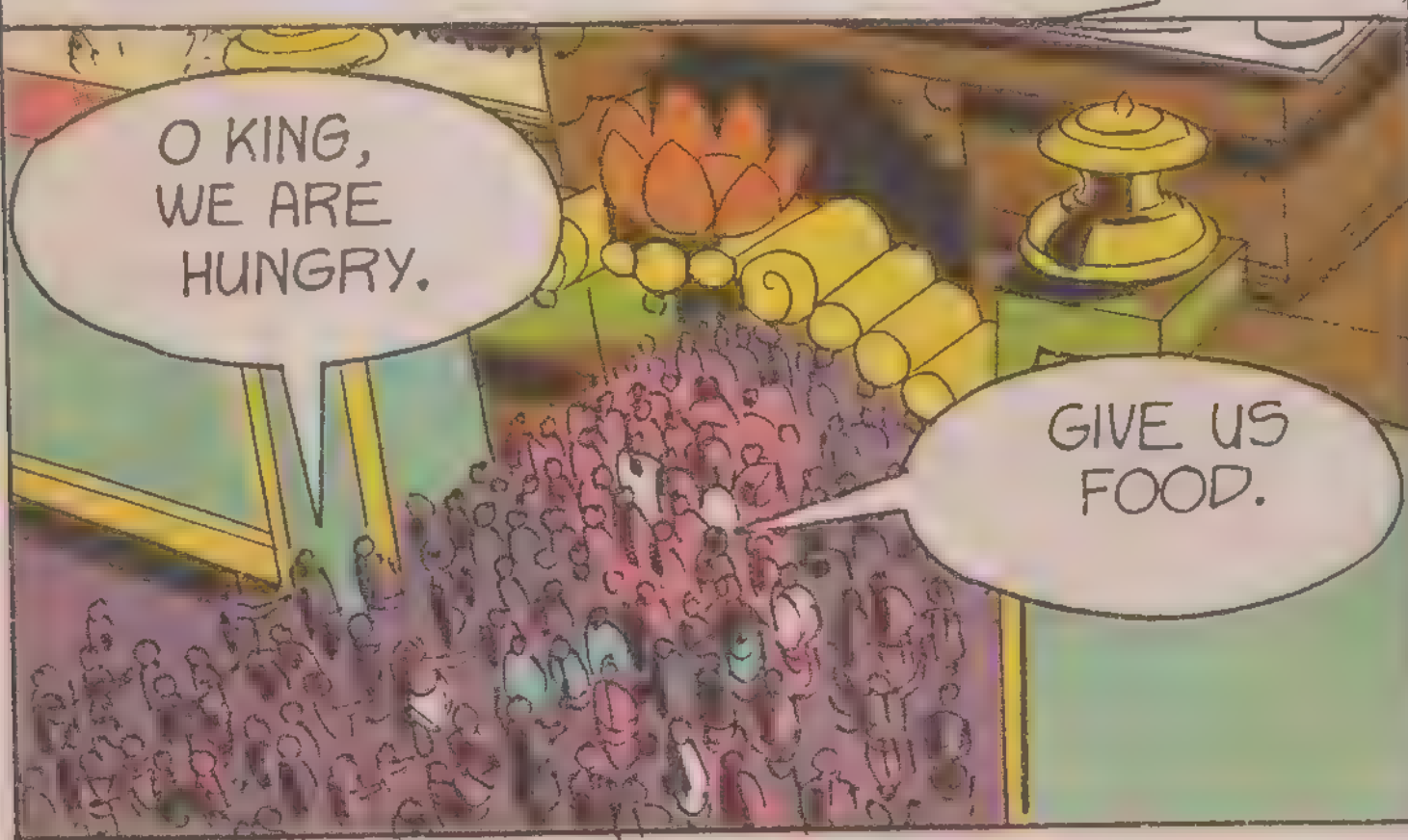
... MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN STARVED IN LARGE NUMBERS.



THEY FLOCKED TO THE GATES OF RANTIDEVA'S PALACE—

O KING,
WE ARE
HUNGRY.

GIVE US
FOOD.

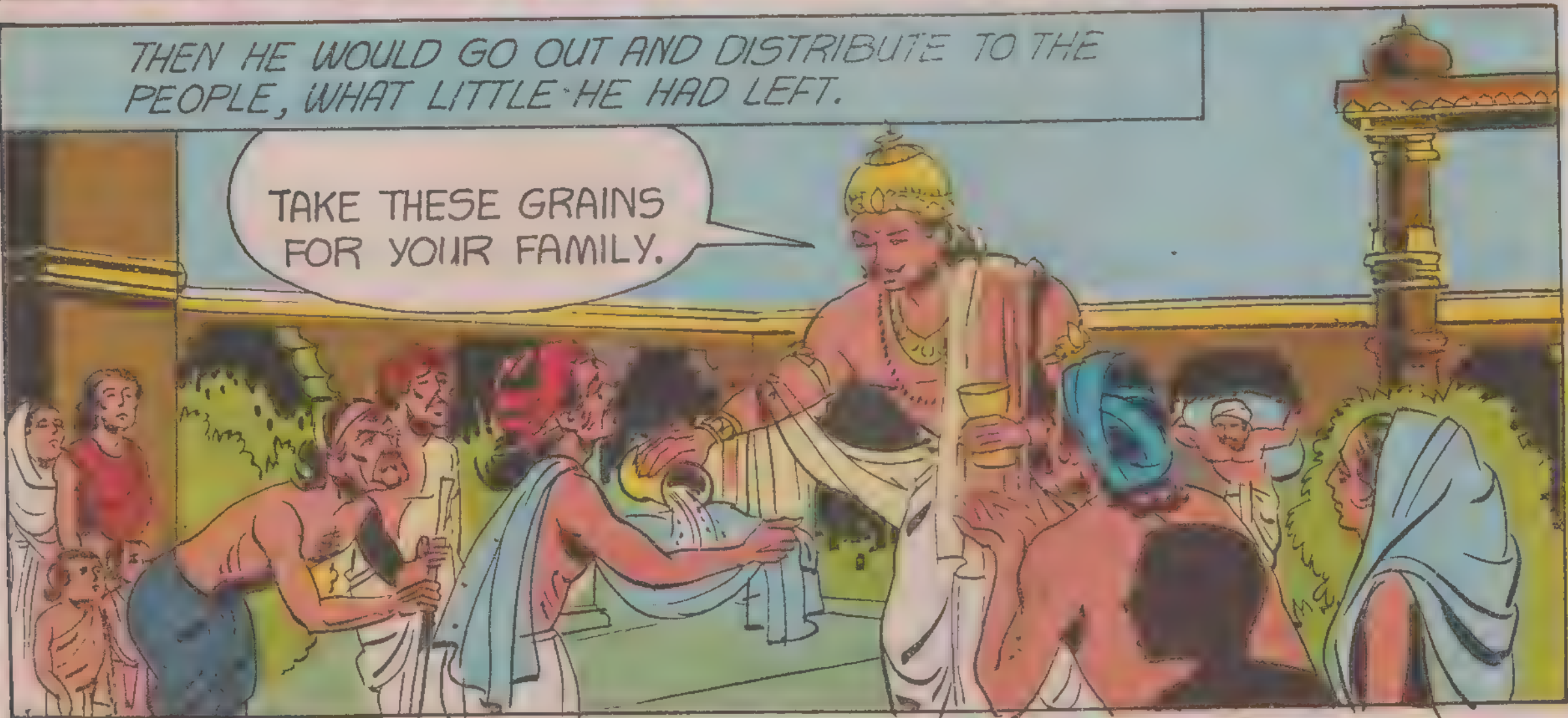


I PRAY FOR
STRENGTH AND THE
MEANS TO HELP
MY PEOPLE!



THEN HE WOULD GO OUT AND DISTRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE, WHAT LITTLE HE HAD LEFT.

TAKE THESE GRAINS
FOR YOUR FAMILY.



YET THE FAMINE CONTINUED. IN FACT, IT GREW WORSE FROM DAY TO DAY.



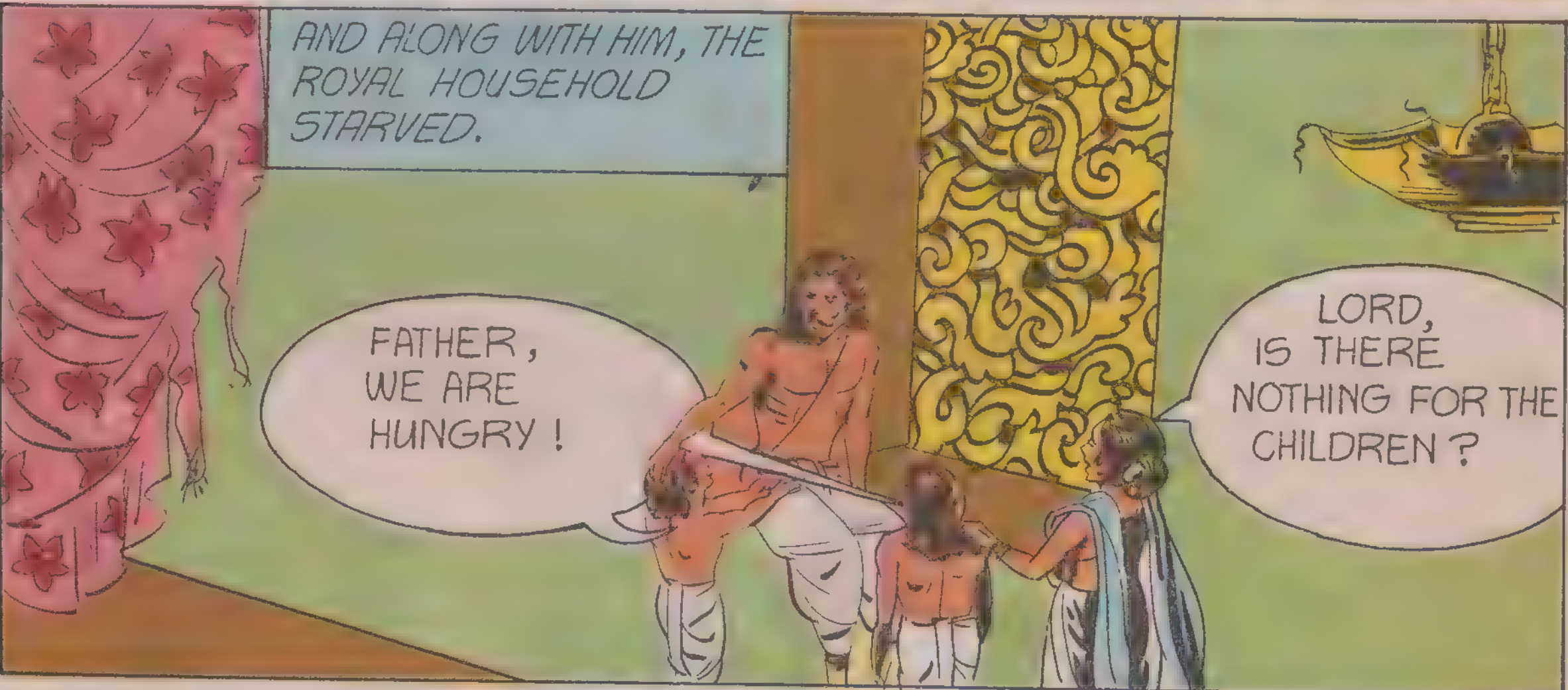
NOW THERE IS NOTHING LEFT WITH ME.



AND ALONG WITH HIM, THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD STARVED.

FATHER, WE ARE HUNGRY !

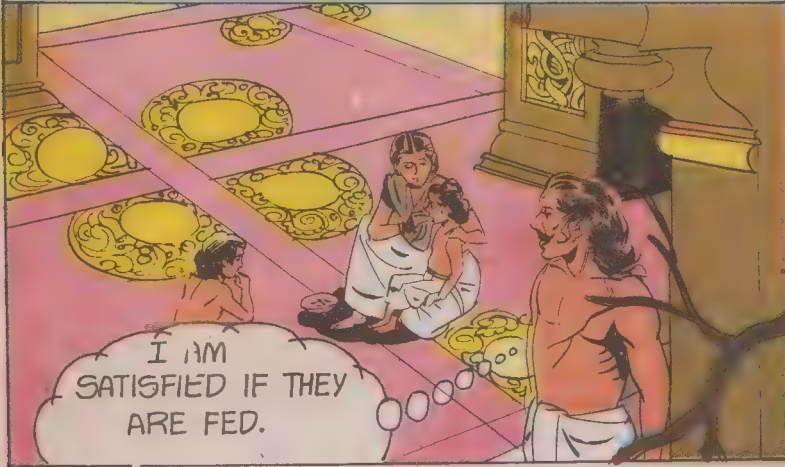
LORD, IS THERE NOTHING FOR THE CHILDREN ?



IF I HAD FOOD, I WOULD GIVE IT TO MY SUBJECTS. IT IS OUR DUTY TO LOOK AFTER THEM, MY DEAR.



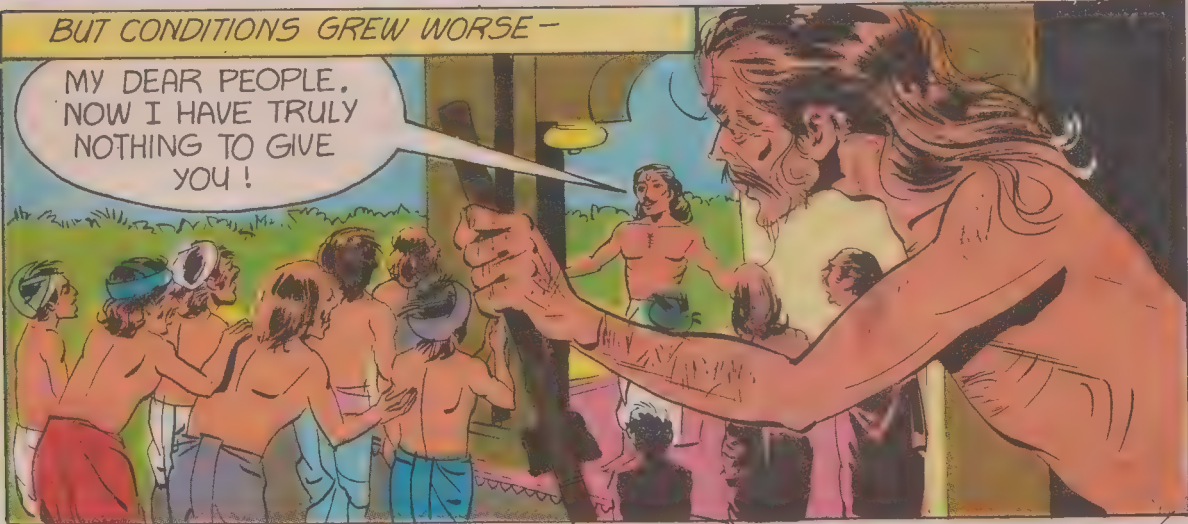
SOMETIMES, THERE WOULD BE FOOD FOR HIS FAMILY
BUT THE KING WOULD HAVE TO GO HUNGRY.



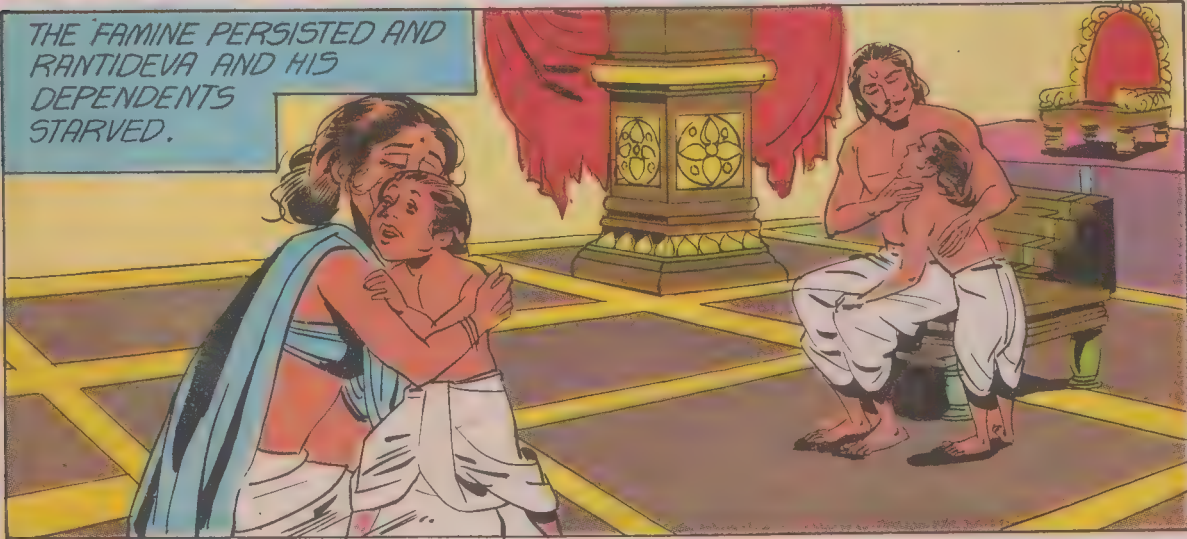
WHAT PEACE AND
HAPPINESS THERE IS
IN GIVING TO OTHERS!



BUT CONDITIONS GREW WORSE -



THE FAMINE PERSISTED AND
RANTIDEVA AND HIS
DEPENDENTS
STARVED.



THUS PASSED FOR, Y-EIGHT DAYS. ON THE FORTY-NINTH DAY-

O KING,
HERE IS A BOWL
OF PORRIDGE MADE
FROM FLOUR, MILK
AND GHEE.

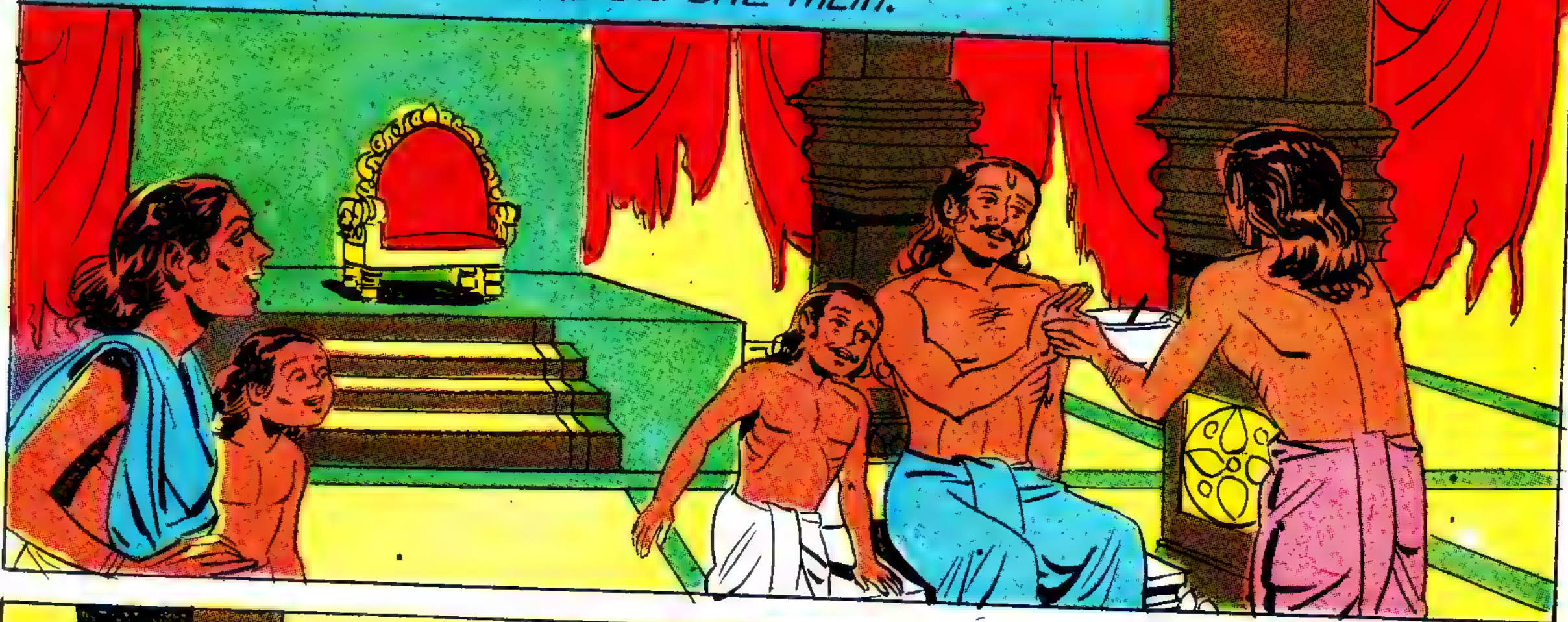


RANTIDEVA WAS TOO WEAK
FROM EXHAUSTION EVEN TO MOVE.

GIVE IT TO YOUR
FAMILY AND EAT
SOME OF IT
YOURSELF.



OVERCOME BY HUNGER AND THIRST, THE WHOLE FAMILY
WAS GLAD TO SEE A MEAL BEFORE THEM.



O FATHER, MOTHER,
LET US EAT
QUICKLY BEFORE
SOMEONE COMES.



JUST THEN, THERE CAME TO THE DOOR, A
WRINKLED OLD BRAHMIN—

BE MERCIFUL.
GIVE A MORSEL
TO A STARVING
OLD MAN !

RANTIDEVA RECEIVED
HIM RESPECTFULLY—

HERE IS SOME
PORRIDGE FOR
YOU, OLD
FATHER.

AS THEY WERE ABOUT
TO EAT AGAIN...

...A BEGGAR CAME
TO THE DOOR.

FOOD !
FOOD !!

HERE, MY GOOD MAN. YOU WILL FEEL BETTER AFTER EATING THIS PORRIDGE.

THEN CAME AN OUTCASTE AND WITH HIM CAME HIS DOGS.

MAHARAJ !
MY DOGS
AND I HAVE
NOT EATEN
FOR MANY
DAYS.

WE ARE STARVING. IF
YOU WILL NOT FEED
US, WHO WILL ?

MY DEAR, GIVE HIM
THE REMAINING
PORRIDGE.

I AM SORRY DEAR.
THERE IS NOTHING
LEFT FOR YOU AND
THE CHILDREN.

LORD, THERE IS A
LITTLE WATER LEFT AT
THE BOTTOM OF THIS
PITCHER. LET ME GIVE
IT TO YOU.



AT THAT MOMENT, CAME A MAN, HIS THROAT
PARCHED WITH THIRST, HIS EYES HEAVY
WITH EXHAUSTION.



WATER !
WATER !!

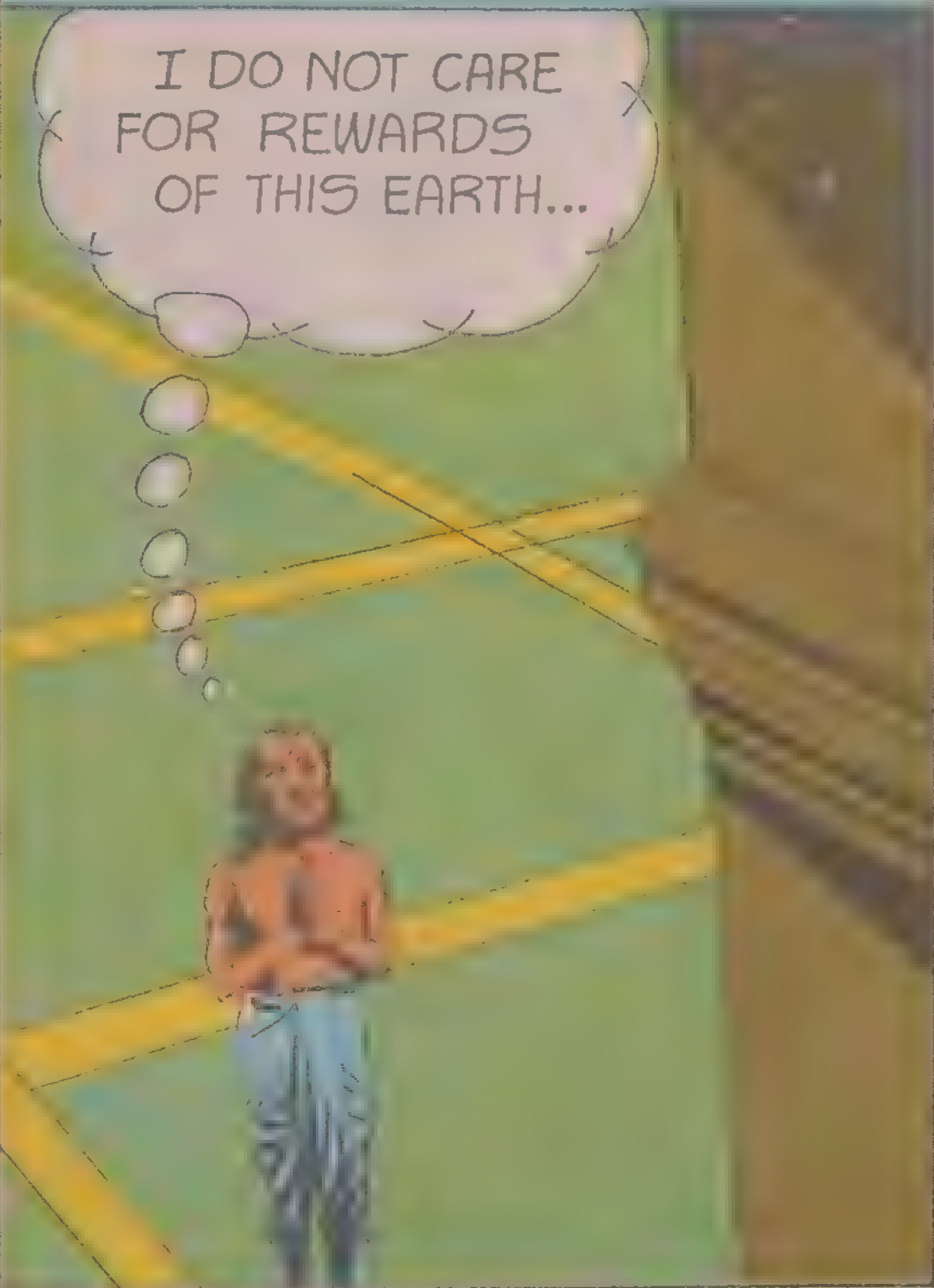


RANTIDEVA HELD THE CUP OF WATER TO HIS CRACKED LIPS -



HE PRAYED TO THE LORD—

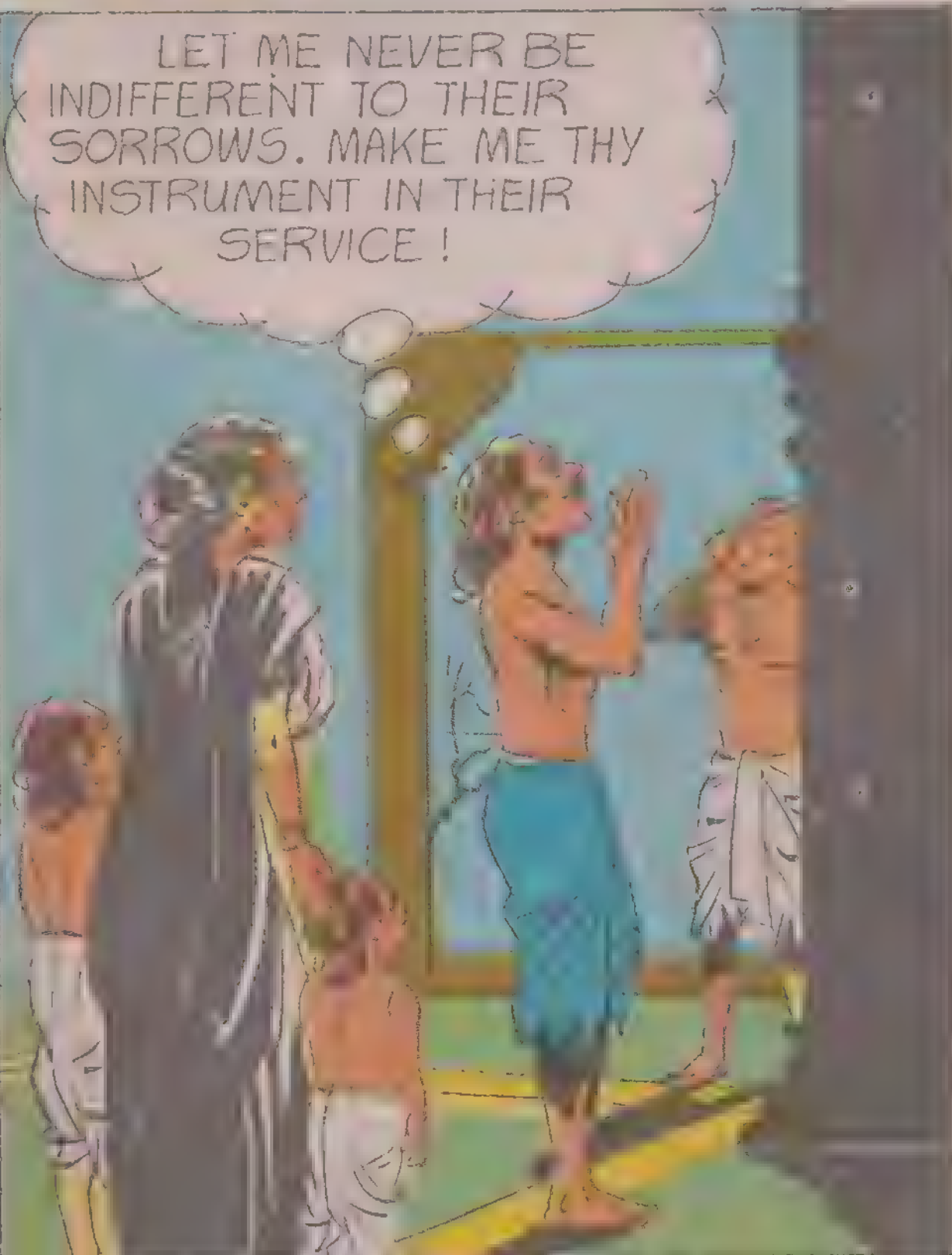
I DO NOT CARE
FOR REWARDS
OF THIS EARTH...



...NOR FOR
POWERS OF ANY KIND.
MY ONLY PRAYER IS —
GIVE ME THE CAPACITY TO
FEEL THE PAIN OF OTHERS
AND THE STRENGTH TO
SERVE THEM.



LET ME NEVER BE
INDIFFERENT TO THEIR
SORROWS. MAKE ME THY
INSTRUMENT IN THEIR
SERVICE !



THE SPARKLE OF LIFE CAME
BACK TO THE THIRSTY
MAN'S EYES.



STRANGE ENOUGH, THE KING
FELT HIS OWN HUNGER, THIRST
AND FATIGUE DROPPING AWAY
FROM HIM!

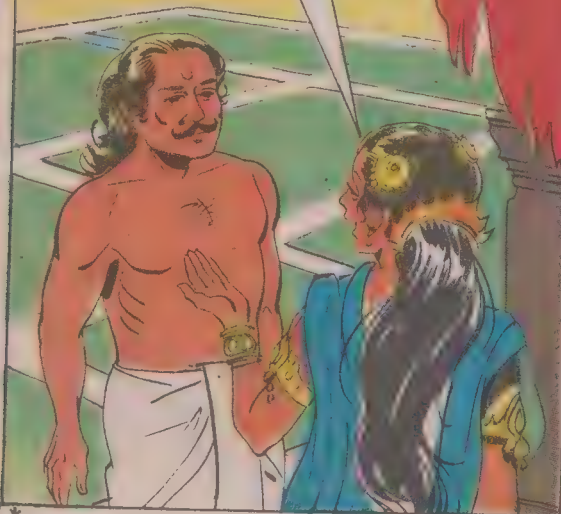
WHAT WONDER
IS THIS ? I FEEL
STRONG ALL OF
A SUDDEN !



SUDDENLY, THERE APPEARED
BEFORE HIM, MAYA* WITH A
HOST OF HER
ATTENDANTS.



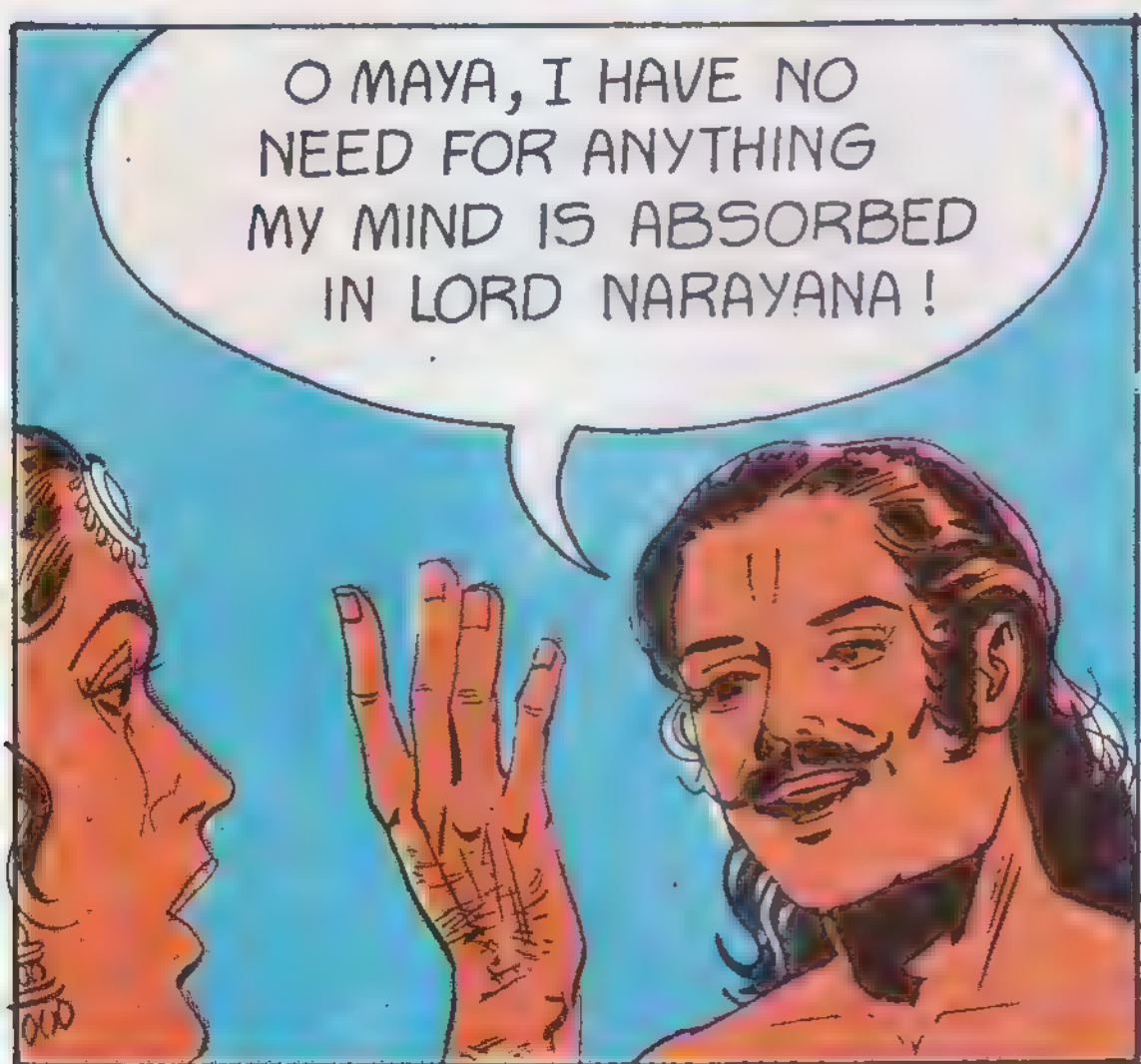
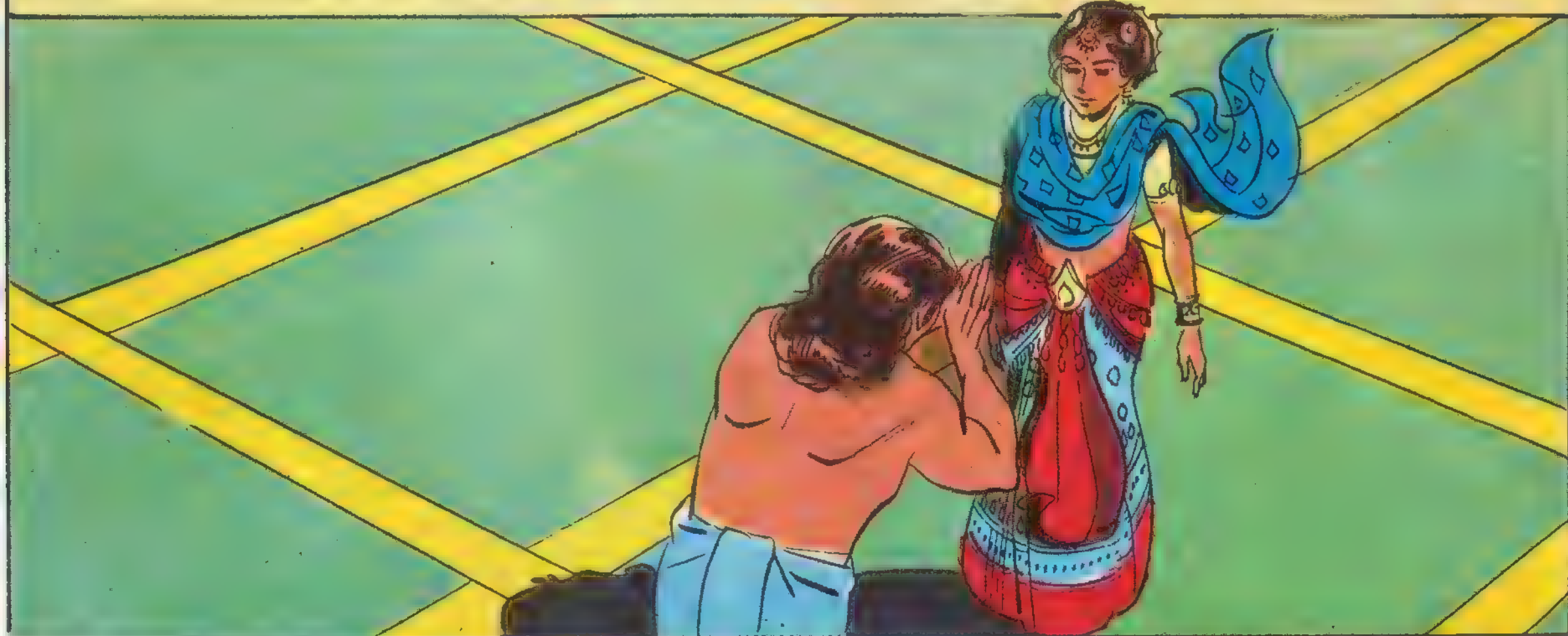
O KING ! I AM
VERY HAPPY TO
SEE YOUR
DEVOTION TO
YOUR PEOPLE !



MY NAME IS MAYA. IF
YOU WORSHIP ME, I WILL
REMOVE ALL YOUR
WANTS AND BLESS
YOU WITH UNTOLD
WEALTH !



RANTIDEVA SHOWED HER DUE RESPECT, BUT ONLY AS ANOTHER FORM OF HARI



O MAYA, I HAVE NO NEED FOR ANYTHING MY MIND IS ABSORBED IN LORD NARAYANA!



I HAVE NO USE FOR ALL THE RICHES YOU OFFER ME.



I HAVE NO WISH TO LIVE LONGER THAN I HAVE TO.



MAYA COULD NOT STAND THE
ONSLAUGHT OF RANTIDEVA'S
ARGUMENTS.

OH ! IT IS NO
USE TRYING TO WIN
OVER THIS MAN !



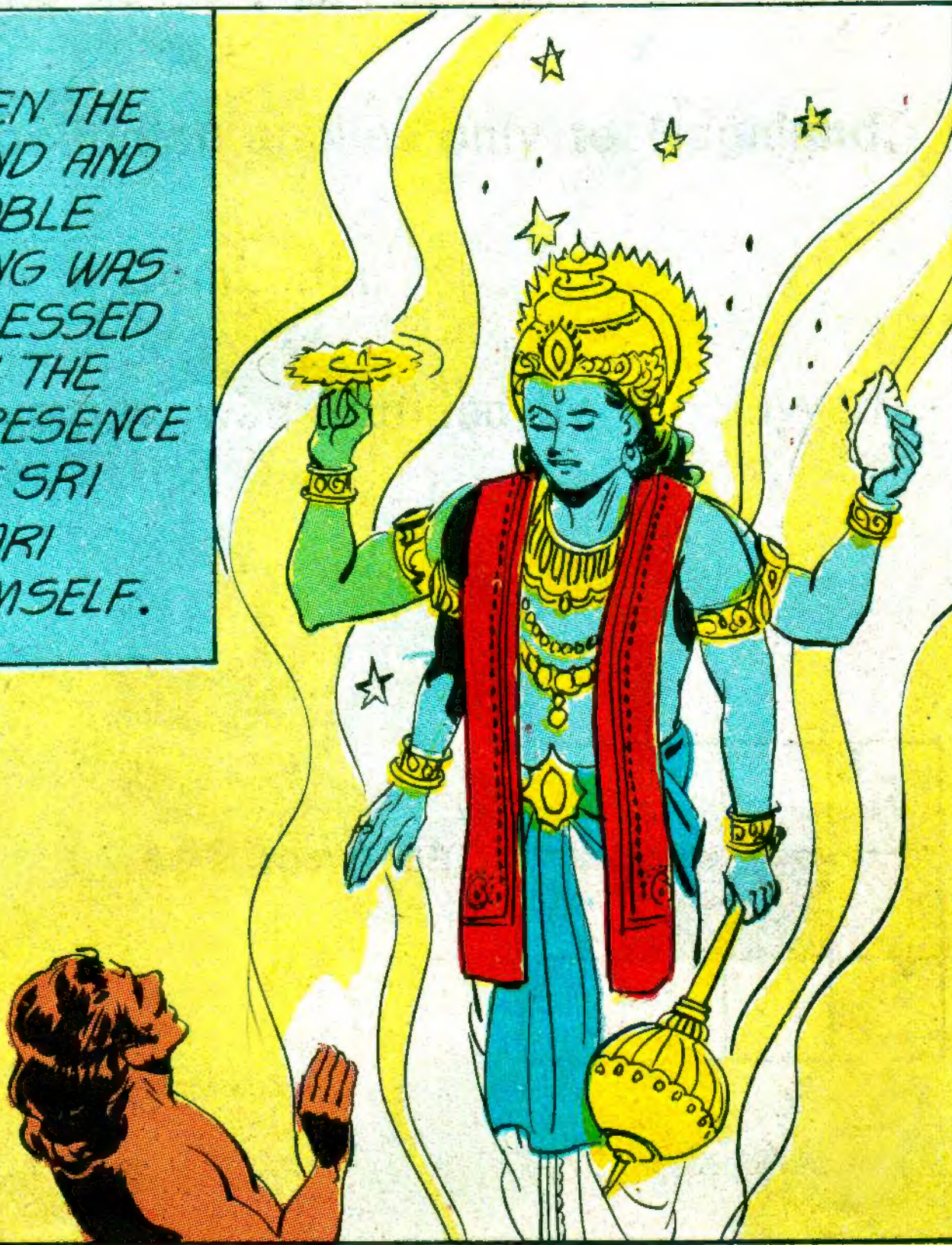
AS SUDDENLY AS SHE HAD
COME, SHE VANISHED, LEAVING
RANTIDEVA ALONE.



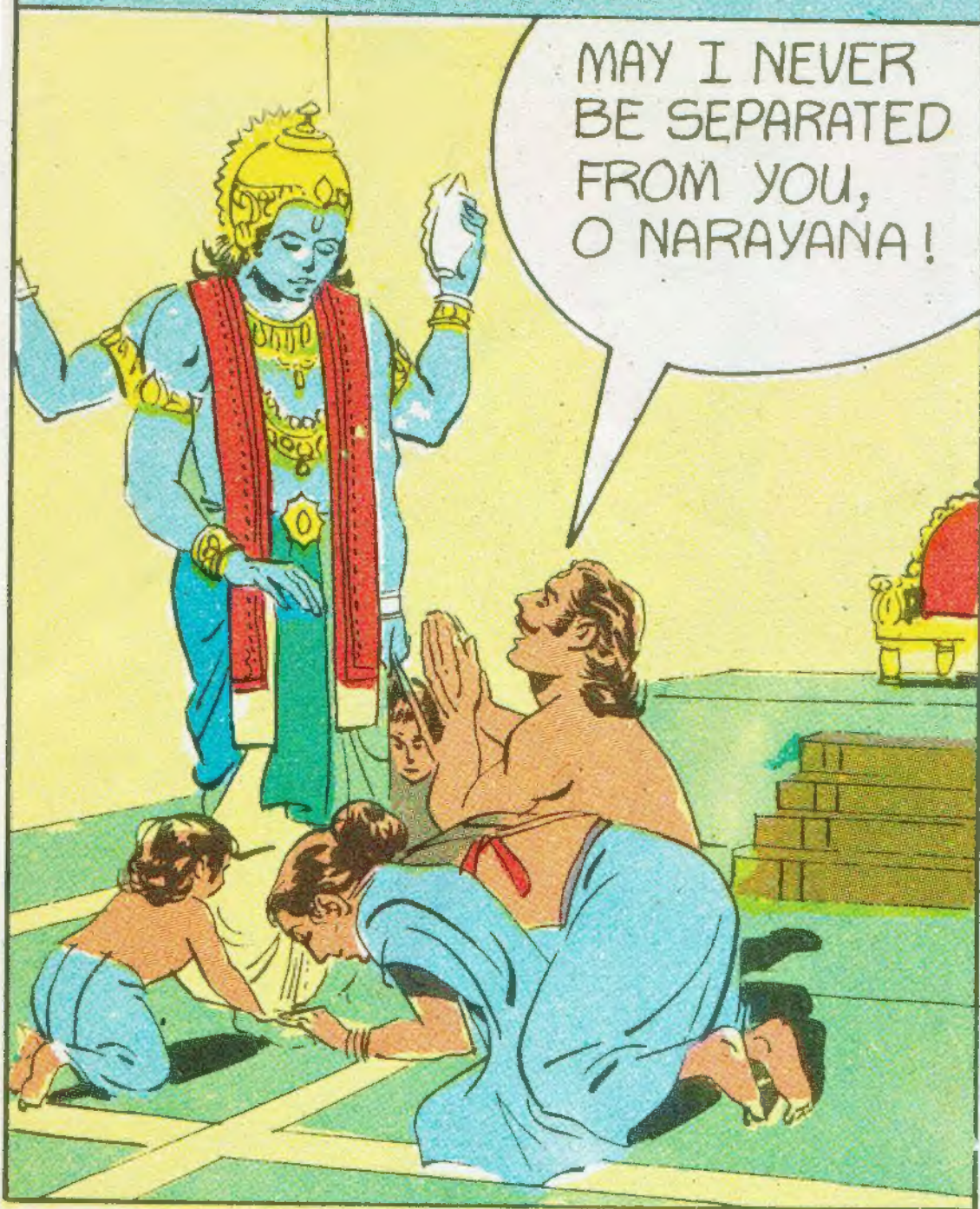
WAS IT A
DREAM
OR A
HALLUCINATION?



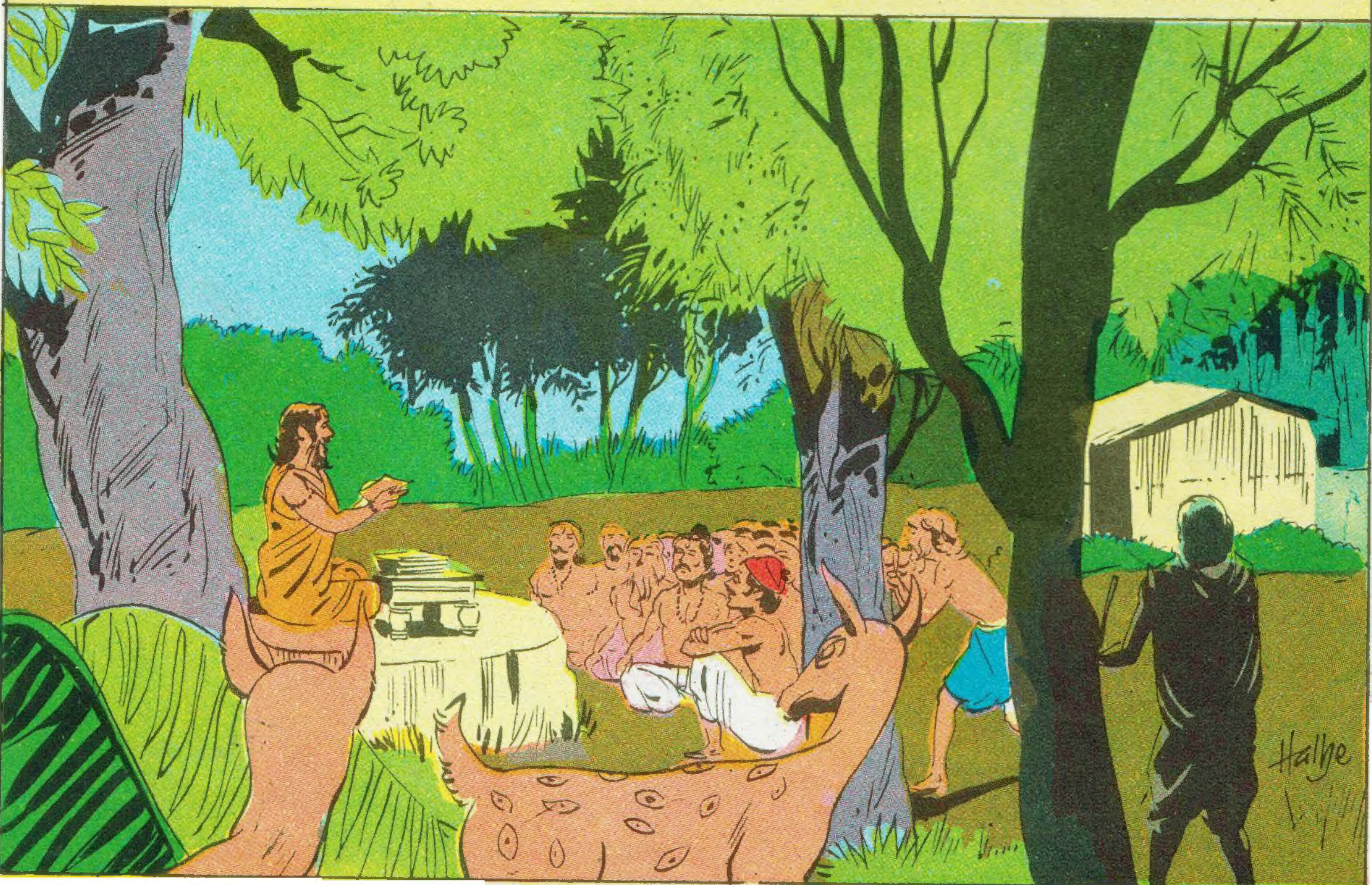
THEN THE
KIND AND
NOBLE
KING WAS
BLESSED
BY THE
PRESENCE
OF SRI
HARI
HIMSELF.



HE WORSHIPPED HIM—



RANTIDEVA BECAME ONE OF THE GREATEST YOGIS OF THE LAND.
FOR THOSE WHO CAME AFTER HIM, HE SET A MARVELLOUS EXAMPLE
OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE AND SUPREME LOVE FOR LORD NARAYANA !



FORM IV

(See Rule 8)

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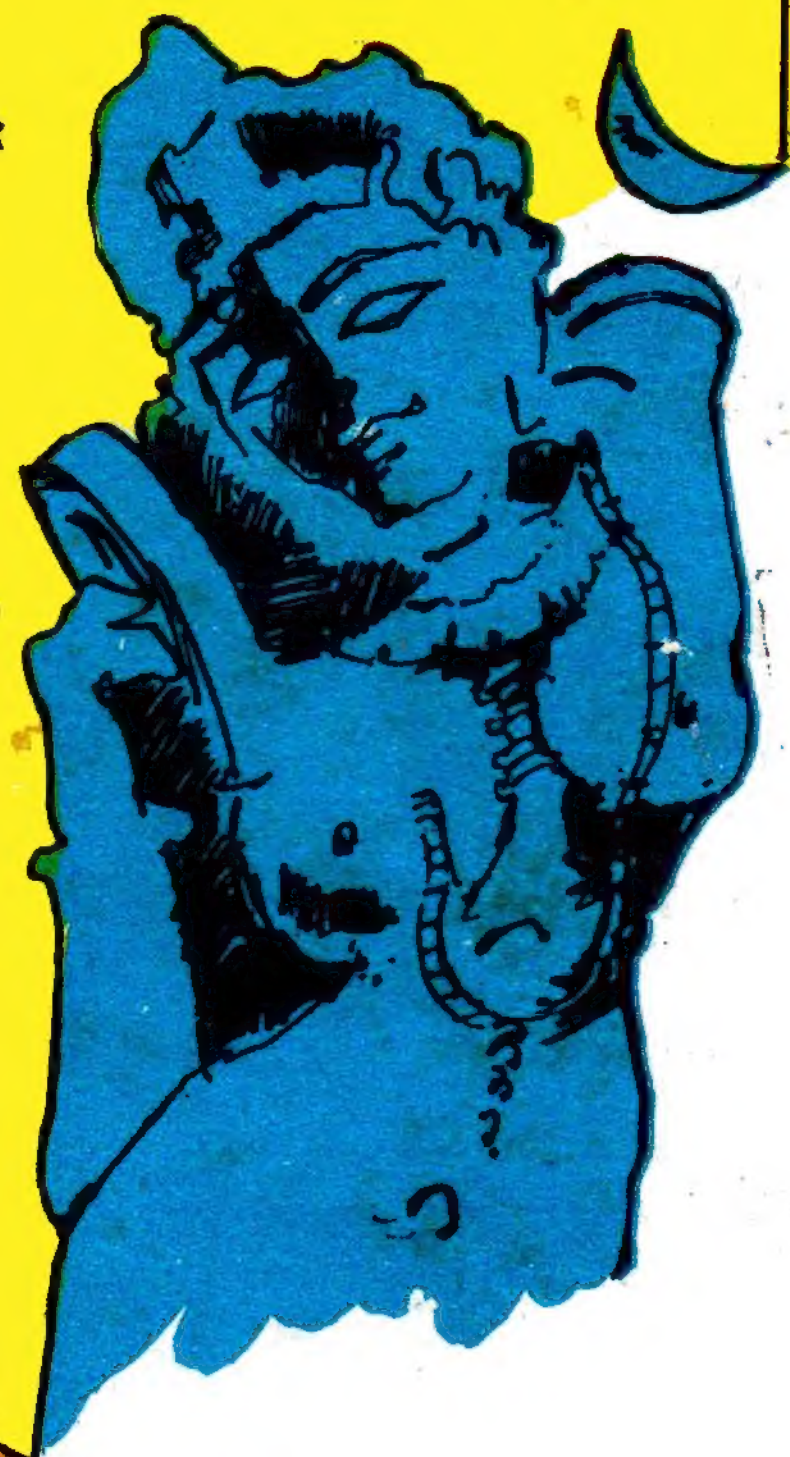
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